

# DC Gazette

VOL IX NR 7

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1978

25 CENTS AT NEWSSTANDS

## Will DC Run Out of Water?

## Washington's King of Swingers

## The Race for the Chair



DAVID OMAR WHITE

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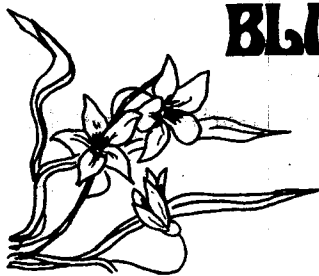
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## DC GAZETTE

THE DC GAZETTE is published monthly except during the summer when it is published bimonthly. Our deadline is the second Tuesday of the month except for ads, which should be submitted by the third Tuesday of the month. The Gazette is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and uses the services of Liberation News Service, Pacific News Service, College Press Service, HerSay News Service, and Community Press Features. The Gazette is available by mail for \$5 a year. Single copies are 50¢ if mailed and 25¢ at selected newsstands.

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### DC GAZETTE

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DUPONT CIRCLE, DC 20009

232-5544

# APPLE PIE

## An American Report

## NOTES FROM THE REAL WORLD

**FREEP DEAD:** The Los Angeles Free Press has closed its doors. New owner Larry Flynt apparently didn't like losing all money. With the Freep gone, the little old Gazette is close to being America's longest running alternative paper. The Freep started in 1964. The Gazette began in 1966.

**HERE'S SOME HEAVY THINKING** from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, quoted by the Wall Street Journal: "The skin is an important interface between man and his environment."

### GEORGE SCOTT, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL:

They closed Southern California's Marineland for remodeling last November and since then the dolphins have started sulking, the sea lions are getting fat and the killer whales are depressed. Turns out they miss show business; so now they're bringing school kids once a week just so the creatures will have a chance to do their stuff.

**FBI AGENTS** seriously thought there might be secret messages hidden in the comic strip "Pogo," according to a story in New Times Magazine. So the bureau sent ten strips to its cryptology lab in the mid-1950s for a two-week examination. NT reports that the agents "tried substituting words, deleting letters, examining first letters of a series of words, etc. . . .

all to find out what Pogo, Albert and Beauregard were really saying in Okefenokee Swamp. They were unable to come up with any hidden messages.

**GENERIC RUSH:** Canned fruits and vegetables sold under generic rather than brand names are running out at major supermarkets. These generally lower quality items have prices that range from ten to 33 percent below the brand items. Some stores are reportedly responding to the shortage of generic goods by packaging brand items under generic names.

**THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK** office has refused to register the name of a gay publication called "Gaysweek," claiming the mark "is considered to consist or comprise immoral and scandalous matter."

**NEW FOOD PLAN:** The city of Hartford, Conn., is thinking about using unemployed young persons to run an urban food system. The Elements newsletter reports that Hartford imports about 85% of its food, much of it by truck. Food costs are higher than the national average. Catherine Lerza of the Public Resources Center has proposed that the new project emphasize community gardens, coops, and buying clubs. You can get a copy of the report for \$3.50 from Kip Bergstrom, Special Projects director, City of Hartford, Conn.

Now available for in-home use:

## UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS DEVELOP MOST RELIABLE TEST FOR CONTAMINATED MARIJUANA

**OXFORD, MISS.**—The Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Mississippi has perfected what experts describe as "the most reliable test" for the detection of the herbicide Paraquat in marijuana.

Dr. Coy Waller, the Institute's director, announced that the test, which can be safely conducted in the home, has been licensed to Landis Labs, Inc., of Horsham, Pa., for marketing directly to the public under the trade name "PAK" (Paraquat Analysis Kit).

### Lung Damage Possible

Federal agencies remain extremely concerned about the potential health hazards of Paraquat-tainted marijuana. The latest report from the National Institute on Drug Abuse verifies the preliminary reports that smoking contaminated marijuana can cause serious damage to the lungs and other body organs.

Until now, users have had no positive means of do-it-yourself identification of Paraquat in their marijuana. Both NIDA and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) have claimed that most of the kits rushed to the marketplace are "inaccurate and ineffective."

### Mexico Still Spraying

Furthermore, public agencies and independent testing laboratories have been backlogged with so many requests that there have been reports

of waits from 3 to 6 weeks . . . and of samples never being received at all.

Meanwhile, the government of Mexico reportedly continues to spray their marijuana crops with the deadly herbicide.

### Uses Treated Paper

The University of Mississippi test can detect minute traces of as little as one part per million by the appearance of a reddish mark on a strip of specially treated paper. The test takes about an hour and uses four chemical solutions. Included are lab equipment, measuring devices and easy-to-follow instructions.

**The complete kit, containing material to conduct six tests is \$12.95, postage paid. Orders will be shipped promptly. Send check or money order to Landis Labs, Inc., 328 Maple Ave., Horsham, Pa. 19044.**

A LOS ANGELES JUDGE has ruled that dogs need no longer be licensed in that city. It's a denial of equal protection, says the judge, since the city doesn't require licensing for canaries, turtles, pigs, chipmunks or cats.

LADIES HOME JOURNAL polled high school students around the country and they named Anita Bryant and Adolph Hitler as the people who have "done the most damage to the world." She also won, with Richard Nixon, the honor of being the person who makes them angriest. Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt did the most for the world according to the students. Billy Graham and God were named as those who had done the most for religion. God came in second.

HERE'S A POLL ABOUT POLLS: According to some Michigan social scientists, 68% of Americans are either somewhat or very interested in being interviewed. Only 16% said they avoided pollsters.

OHIO STATE REPRESENTATIVE John Galbraith (no, not that one) has introduced a bill to deal with the energy crisis. It would abolish January and February and redistribute the days among the summer months.

THE DUTCH electronics firm, NV Philips, is working on a three-dimensional TV set. They've produced the pictures already but they're fuzzy. May be on the market by 1981.

## ECOCLIPS

CRITICAL MASS, the anti-nuclear organization, reports that growing numbers of atomic plant workers are refusing work assignments in low radiation areas. CM says that workers at four different plants have been suspended or fired for declining to perform certain duties which they alleged to be potentially hazardous. The Indian Point Nuclear Reactor in New York is said to have been the scene of the biggest protest when 122 workers refused to enter a low radiation area which the utility company insisted was safe.

ACCORDING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL Action Foundation and the Critical Mass Energy Project, utilities using nuclear power to generate electricity receive substantially larger rate increases than other utilities. The two groups analyzed rate hikes that regulators have given the nation's 100 largest power companies since 1972. They found that the rate hikes received by companies with significant nuclear generating facilities were 27% larger than those granted companies with little or no nuclear generation.

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT has charged that a major accident at a nuclear power plant could kill up to 300,000 people because the government has failed to plan for emergency evacuations.

The government claims that only 3300 deaths at most would occur during such an accident. But David Dinsmore Comey, executive director of CBE, says that the government's estimate is based on the assumption that 43% of the population downwind from a nuclear plant would be evacuated within an hour's time. Comey charges that most nuclear plants surveyed by his group don't have a workable plan for mass evacuations. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission disputes the group's findings but concedes that only four of the fifty states have evacuation plans that meet the agency's standards.

LETTUCE FROM CALIFORNIA may contain dangerously high levels of cadmium according to a story in the Chicago Sun Times. The metal has been linked to kidney disease, cancer, birth defects and other health problems.

## THE BODY BEAT

A STUDY DONE at the University of Washington has found that girls playing interscholastic sports have about the same injury rates as boys. The report looked at four girls' high school athletic programs for two years. The girls played such games as badminton, basketball, cross country, gymnastics, softball, and



## THE NEWS BEFORE IT HAPPENS

For more than 12 years the Gazette has been bringing you the news *before* it happens: ideas and issues that are going to shape the future of the city but which the other media pass by because they are afraid of them or because they are not connected with trendy events. That's why, among the city's media, the Gazette was first to:

- PROPOSE BIKEWAYS FOR THE CITY (1968)
- PROPOSE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS (1969)
- PRESENT THE CASE FOR DC STATEHOOD (1970)
- PROPOSE A SUNSHINE LAW (1971)
- REVEAL THE TRUE EXTENT OF METRO'S FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT (1971 on)
- PROPOSE THE REINTRODUCTION OF STREETCARS (1972)
- REVEAL MASSIVE INEQUITIES IN PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS (1973)
- RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATIONAL VISITORS CENTER BOONDOGGLE (1969 on)

The Gazette is the paper that first exposed the convention center scandal and helped defeat it the first time it went before Congress. . . that helped to kill an Urban Development Corporation scheme modelled on the now-bankrupt New York UDC. . . that was first to propose a speculation tax, property tax deferral, and homeowners' exemptions. . . that has been the leading voice in the media fighting against freeways, real estate speculation, developer landgrabs and the severest journalistic critic of the city's urban removal policies and waste in city government.

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOUR CITY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. You can use the form below:

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The Stonewall Organizing Committee was formed as a group to facilitate the building of a strong gay community. We offer ourselves as a base from which different projects can develop: protective services such as self-defense, first aid; offensive actions such as sit-ins in anti-gay restaurants; and community growth projects such as consciousness raising around issues such as sexism and racism within the gay community. We hope to bring people together to work and grow strong. We welcome ideas and suggestions and hope you will read our pamphlet and add your name to our list of interested persons or contact us for further information. Order our pamphlet, *Stonewall Means Resistance*, by calling Gigi, 543-2770, Terri or Barbara, 232-1461 or Joe 462-4264. Remember Stonewall!!

## FREE PARKING FOR ACTIVISTS

THE GAZETTE WILL RUN FREE ads for non-profit action groups on a space available basis. The ads may be submitted in one of two forms:

1. Type the ad (with a good carbon ribbon) or use a black pentel pen. Copy may be no wider than 2 1/2" and no longer than 3". Single-space. Typing the ad vertically on a 3x5 file card is a good way to do this.

2. You may prepare your own camera-ready ad 3x3 or smaller.

We occasionally have space to run larger ads but you should always submit a smaller ad with it to make sure your message gets in.

Send to DC Gazette, 1739 Conn. Ave. NW DC 20009

If you want us to type your copy the price is \$1 for the first 20 words and 5¢ a word thereafter.

volleyball. The injury rate for the girls was about 22% compared to a 24% injury rate for the boys. Most of the injuries were minor.

THE WASHINGTONIAN Magazine has offered to raise \$18,000 to build a quarter-mile running track for the president on the south lawn of the White House. Personally, we feel populist presidents should run along Rock Creek Parkway like everyone else and counter the Washingtonian's offer with a promise to raise funds for a presidential membership in the Office Health Club.

RUNNING TIMES, the fine regional running magazine, ran a review of George Leonard's 'The Ultimate Athlete' in its January issue. Quoting Leonard, reviewer Crispin Cusack wrote:

*Athletics before the middle of the 6th century B.C. . . were enclosed within, not placed adjacent to or beneath, the philosophical life. The emergence of a distinctly modern style of thinking 'cut away the body from the Higher Life, the Life of the Mind,' a trauma from which neither the body (athletics) nor the mind (academics) has fully recovered. Western thought "by and large rejected direct experience as a path to highest knowledge." As philosophy developed, it tended to "view as true that which is most removed from our own persons." The drift of Leonard's argument is that this "heresy in Western thought" engendered science which in turn fostered technology which in turn presented us with a fait accompli: "the angst, alienation, and anomie of our times." The "sacred origins" of athletics, through specialization and institutionalization, decayed.*

A SURVEY conducted by the ACLU has found

that psychiatrist and psychologist manage to agree among themselves only 54% of the time. The ACLU points out that this is only slightly better than the law of averages.

DENTAL RESEARCHERS LEONARD Horowitz and Robert Nersasian claim that some of the intoxicating chemicals in marijuana have been known to combine with pain-killing and stimulant drugs used by dentists to produce abnormally rapid heartbeats "for dangerously long periods of time" in people who are stoned. The doctors suggest abstaining from pot before and immediately after a visit to the dentist.

MEDICAL RESEARCHERS at Mount Sinai Hospital in Miami Beach say it really is true that you should drink chicken soup when you have a cold. Their tests show that chicken soup speeds up the expulsion of germ-laden mucus from nasal passages and helps cure infection. Any hot liquid helps, but for some unexplained reason, chicken soup does it best.

## WOMEN & MEN

DR JAMES BURT of Dayton claims to have performed some 4000 operations on women — at a cost of about \$1500 apiece — to "reconstruct the vagina to make the clitoris more accessible to direct penile stimulation." He calls his operation the 'Mark Two' and says it enables a woman to have more frequent and more intense orgasms. The operation involves relocating and lengthening the vagina and then severing a major muscle in the genital area. According to Seven Days magazine,

## THE SHIRTWORKS



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## THE OTHER GOVERNMENT

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE Committee is charging that the FBI from 1930 to 1976, and possibly continuing to the present, has maintained a list of Americans to be rounded up and placed in detention camps in case of a "national emergency."

The committee says that government documents it has obtained under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that the Bureau of Prisons has set aside six detention centers to be used to hold certain individuals at a moment's notice. According to the documents, the round-up list hit a high of 26,000 persons during the McCarthy but still total 1294 in 1975. According to Ken Lawrence of the Friends Committee, "Right-wingers were targeted -- fascists during WWII, Klansmen and Minutemen more recently. But the general pattern is clear: Marxists of every stripe, Puerto Rican and black nationalists, and new leftists were the FBI's main enemies and remain so."

Burt is so pleased with his operation that he's hired a public relations firm to spread the good news. Seven Days says that no male physician has yet suggested surgery on the penis to help increase its possible contact with the clitoris.

A DIRECTORY OF SHELTERS, SERVICES, coalitions and taskforces working to end wife and woman-abuse has been put together by Betsy Warrior. The publication covers the country and includes publications of interest and information on how to start hot lines, support groups and shelters. Info: Betsy Warrior, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139

EBONY MAGAZINE REPORTS THAT INTERRACIAL marriages last longer than those between two people of the same race. Ebony also notes that the black pride movement did nothing to stem the rise in interracial marriage. Between 1960 and 1970 there were almost 100,000 more interracial marriages than there were in the previous decade.

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN Council on Life Insurance a divorced man has a death rate nearly twice that of a married man when it comes to heart disease, strokes, or cancer of the lung or stomach. Death rates for male divorcees are five times higher for suicide, seven times higher for cirrhosis and three times higher for hypertension. Divorced people even have three times the fatality rate of married people when it comes to car accidents. The Insurance Council has adopted the slogan: "Better wed than dead." ... THIS IS PROBABLY JUST COINCIDENTAL but the Census Bureau reports that the number of divorces rose only two percent last year, compared with a rise of between eight and twelve percent consistently between the years of 1968 and 1973.

THE NATIONAL Women's Political Caucus says that over the last 200 years only 11 of the 1726 senators have been women, only 87 of the 9688 representatives and only six of the 525 current federal judges.

THE HOUSE ASSASSINATIONS Committee will start holding nationally televised public hearings on the Martin Luther King murder case beginning August 14. About 40 days of hearings into the King/JFK cases are in the works and will be held on weekdays in August, September and November.

A FORMER FINANCE office for the CIA is claiming that Lee Harvey Oswald was a secret operative for the agency who was trained in Japan in the late 1950s. James Wilcott, who served with the CIA's Tokyo station beginning in 1960, has voiced these allegations to the House Select Committee on Assassinations. In a memo he has given the Assassination Information Bureau in Washington, Wilcott says a number of his CIA colleagues in Japan privately told him about Oswald. The Warren Commission reported in 1969 that Oswald had been stationed with the Marines at Atsugi and that he learned to speak Russian during his tour there.

## Messtro Fare Changes Announced!

By Alex Spinrad

OFFICIALS of MESSTRO announced today their all new MESSTRO fare changes, which will make the system the most complicated, if not the most efficient, transportation system in history.

The mainstay of the new system is the "Un-Fare card," which may be purchased in any nearby blacksmith's shop for values of \$100 or from "Un-faremobiles" conveniently located 1000 yards from several MESSTRO stations, as yet unnamed.

The machines, which run as much as 57 minutes without maintenance, are MESSTRO Chief Kahuna Klutz's first blow in his one-man fight to "make MESSTRO a business, cut our deficit, make the system pay for itself, and declare a 2-for-1 split." Reasons the young "whiz kid" chieftan of the system: "We can force many of the riders to take cars, thus reducing our operating costs and deficit."

Klutz's new strategy includes a whole new concept in fare calculation. The fares will vary arithmetically with the length of the trip, geometrically with the time of day, and a small surcharge will be added upon leaving and entering certain subway exits and entrances.

In addition, there will be special charges for crossing a state border, getting in the train, out of the train, and standing still. Included in the fare calculation will be the weight and body mass of the rider. Special scales and measurement devices will be installed for the purpose.

The basic equation used for calculation of the fare, according to MESSTRO officials, will be

$$\frac{\text{Passenger weight} \times (1.3) (\text{Miles travelled})}{3.6 (\text{Time of day})^2 / \text{Body mass}} + .50$$

Upon crossing a body of water, a state boundary, or any street beginning with the letter "M", special collectors will enter the cars and collect additional fare surcharges.

Klutz denounced as "foolhardy" and "unbusinesslike" suggestions by various groups that the fare be kept at a simple 25 cents across the system. "How will farebox revenues ever equal costs that way? In fact, we intend to vary our bus fares with the price of gas on any particular day, so everybody pays for the real price of their ride. There's no such thing as a free bus."

(c)1977 Alex Spinrad

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\$45.00 per half page  
\$90.00 per page.

Half tones & line art requiring reduction or enlargement: \$4 each. Make-up charges: \$15 per hour for ads not camera-ready.

CLASSIFIED RATE: 10¢ per word paid in advance.

DC GAZETTE  
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PHOTO BY MALACHY DUFFY

IF PLATO'S RETREAT in New York is serious about bringing public orgies to the Washington area, then they're about to butt heads with the "world's largest local sexual freedom club," already sitting pretty in the nation's capital.

It appears that swinging Washington-style is not done in gigantic, velvet-walled, rococo brothels that would generate publicity and really put the town on the sexual libertarian map. Instead, what dominates is an invisible network of sexual activists who make their connections under the aegis of one man, Don Horner.

From his humble suburban office, Horner matches the sexual haves and have-nots through a telephone hotline and through the mail.

"If Plato's is coming to DC then I'm looking forward to doing battle with my first worthy adversary," Horner says. "And I never lose."

While the last few years have seen the demise of several on-the-premises DC swingers clubs — the Class Reunion, The Swinging Gate, Capital Couples, the In Place — Don Horner's club (for protection of privacy, the club's real name will not be used here) has rocketed off from a fantasy of his own libido to a gridwork of more than 1,000 members who meet through ads, and at parties, for the kind of sex that strives to bring intimacy to huge crowds.

"Those other clubs were run as hobbies and not by people really interested in the sexual freedom movement," Horner gives as the secret of his success.

"The big difference between my club and the rest of the sex industry is that we deal in bringing people together while they deal in movies, literature, massages etc. . . Ours is a more human thing, not just for sex."

Which is precisely why Horner is so concerned about that swinger's watchword — discretion — and has only agreed to an interview because most of what has been written recently on swinging has "missed the point."

"None of the articles talk about friendship," he says. "There's more to swinging than just fucking. In my club I've made friendships and seen friendships made, that are close to total relationships."

A reason that the In Place — a swingers' club in Hillside, Maryland, had to fold, Horner says, is because the clientele had become too "sleazy." People would pick up a prostitute, or meet someone at a singles bar and instead of shelling out \$30 for a hotel room, would simply drive to the In Place and pay \$10.

Horner announces proudly that there is no venereal disease in his club and that many female members who brave the hard core swinger's route have gynecological examinations every week.

"Plato's Retreat will always be a transient, bodies thing," he says. "They won't let customers exchange phone numbers because they know this is their weak spot — that this would take money out of their pocket."

Not that Horner's method of selling ads for sex is anything new. National swinger's publications such as Select, The Seekers, and Club Adam have been doing it for years. But if you have to go fishing for that dream, no-strings-attached sexual encounter, they you can get service at Horner's club that is "done ethically and business-like" with an added personal touch.

Each month, members of Horner's club receive the local newsletter which reads with a down-home style that could make strangers talk old times with Harvard Club intimacy. Besides the personal advertisements and nude photographs, the letter includes party schedules, pep talks, philosophy, a complaint department, ads for massage and photography services, and porno movie reviews, penned by Don Horner himself.

A composite ad might read: "Bethesda, Md. Hi, we're a totally uninhibited couple new to swinging, seeking like-minded couples or single women for friendship, 3-somes, 4-somes and more-somes. Greek and French culture. He 5'10, 185 lbs, safe, she 5'3, 111 lbs, 37-25-36, looks like Liz Taylor. Can travel or entertain. Discretion a must. Photo and phone receives reply. No foreigners. Pusilanimous need not apply."

Charlie Clark is  
a Washington freelance writer,  
who swings for research purposes only.

## WASHINGTON'S KING OF SWINGERS

BY CHARLIE CLARK

It is true that no one can guarantee that you will connect with your living fantasy and people often do exaggerate the value of their "merchandise." But Horner's membership applications have a blank for age, height and weight that he feels encourages honesty in the personal ads. Through his system, anonymity is preserved and only Horner himself oversees all the horse-trading, making sure all mail is answered, under penalty of excommunication. Three complaints against you and you're out.

"There are always those who don't answer their mail," Horner says. "Other clubs and magazines would threaten to cancel membership but would not really follow through since they make money whether people answer their mail or not."

Horner should know. He claims to have belonged to every major sex club in the United States. And he didn't just join them, he studied them, responded to ads, saw what kind of people were interested, and gauged how long it took them to reply. "It has always been my goal to have the world's largest sexual freedom club," he gloats.

Fortyish, tall and bearded, Horner achieves the stereotyped, leisurely look of the sexual jet-setter, with an open shirt collar and a medallion dangling in his chest hairs. He speaks hesitantly, weighing his words, as if each pronouncement were a triumph of the will, as he learns to walk proud in his profession.

"I'm a hedonist," he confesses. "I'm a voyeur on a grand scale. I cause things to happen and even if I'm not around to see them, I get a kick out of knowing that I caused them to happen."

The man is not easy to pigeonhole. A former cement-finisher from Iron-ton, Ohio, he is now writing poetry and can often be heard reading his verse at the Washington club, Columbia Station.

After his marriage of eight years broke off, he landed in Washington, where an insurance settlement from a motorcycle injury left him suddenly fitted out with a sum of money. With the motto "I refuse to fail" on his wall, he began his club in early 1976 with two phones, a post office box, and advertisements in The Want Ad and the now-defunct Washington Newsworks.

Through literature, he promoted a club that did not yet exist but which promised a sure-fire sexual outreach for swingers, lonely people and people simply new in town. In May his first newsletter went out with 32 personal ads. By June it was 62, by July, 120 and he was off and running.

Horner learned quickly that he prefers experienced swingers to a general audience. He is not a pimp. "Most people think the young generation is so sexually free," he laments. "But as soon as my ad appeared in Newsworks (readership ages 18 to 36), I would get obscene, crank calls from sick, angry people who would slam down the phone in the middle of the conversation." At one point he had a female assistant answering the phone but she was kept on the line too long with crank calls.

"My club is for considerate people. Most are between 20 and 50 years old and are law-abiding, middle and upper-middle class business and professional people." Added to the membership list, which he likes to think of as his "children," he would like to see more blacks, gays and elderly people.

Scattered between the candid ads that seek and promise the best in sex, are appeals from lonely widows and widowers, with pleas for "no swingers" who must surely raise eyebrows when they read what is being offered by their fellow club members.

"Some people assume that I'm a big stud but I actually get less sex now than I used to since I don't have the time," Horner says. "I also have to make sure that people don't think this is my little harem."

He is now handling 400 hotline calls and 200 letters a month and yearly membership rates, which for original members were \$10, have risen to \$25 for newcomers. "My income is minimal, grossing \$30,000 a year. But it costs

\$1600 a month just to operate, not including the parties which only break even. I'm about to start making money but you have to crawl before you can walk."

Horner had his first swinging experience 20 years ago when he answered an ad in *Select* magazine from a married couple who were looking for a threesome. "It was the husband's fantasy to watch her do it with someone else," he says. The three were happy together for a few months but soon lost contact, though Horner insists that they would still be on amicable terms if they met again.

This was the late 1950s when what Horner calls the "sexual freedom movement" was just getting underway. Reportedly, the movement began with "key clubs", chiefly military couples who at parties would throw housekeys in a hat and draw to see who went home with whom. There is more evidence that swinging really gained more momentum through various pioneer magazines and local private clubs that are only now moving aboveground.

Horner defines sexual freedom as "being able to have sex with whomever you want to have sex with." He has answers prepared, having repeated them all too often, to the problems of jealousy, the charges that swingers have no feelings, that group sex is somehow related to the rising divorce rate.

"The rising divorce rate and the sexual freedom movement are symptoms of the same cause," Horner says. "People have grown more free and honest with each other. Now they can say 'I don't want this marriage anymore' or 'I want to sleep with someone else.'"

Though it may just be public relations, the swinger's rather paradoxical argument is not that marriage is finished but that swinging can actually improve a marriage.

"Swinging works much better than an open marriage (or clandestine infidelity) since you swing as a couple," he says. "You deal with your jealousy by protecting your partner, by being sensitive. You realize your fantasies together in a safe way, which opens up communications and actually improves a relationship."

But why have sex with third, fourth and fifth partners? "Sex with different people is part of what turns you on. Many people go through life never realizing fantasies, relating only on an intellectual level.

"Do you remember the first time you had sex and you went and told a friend about it real excitedly?" he says, growing more intense. "While you're talking, there's a real rapport going on between you. Swingers remain friends because they touch each other on a total level, not just a halfway level the way most everyday meetings are."

It is as if Horner sees swinging not as being unfaithful, but as a solution to the problems of the modern fast-paced big-city lifestyle. "How do you earn a living, keep your relationship going at home and still have time for outside regular relationships?" he asks rhetorically. "Something or somebody has to give. It is the prudes who are the ones running around on their husbands and wives."

As for his own broken marriage, for which he is paying child support for his 10-year-old daughter, Horner simply says that "it was not a marriage made in heaven. I don't have plans to get married again but if I did, the woman would have to be able to accept my profession."

His is a profession that requires considerable managerial skills and not just a communal philosophy of sex. The thorniest problem confronting Horner and every other swinger's club is the phenomenon of the single male.

"It is true that the overwhelming majority of membership applicants are men," he admits. The ratio is about 3 to 1, with 400 couples and a non-member couples list of 1200 who attend parties. "Men are more sexually free than women since they have only themselves to think about," he says. "The male animal operates more on instinct and is often just looking for a piece of ass. Women are just as into sex as men but they also want something more."

Swingers believe that the old adage, that women give sex for love and men give love for sex, is changing. Horner has a special literature prepared to recruit single women — so much in demand — but says that many are afraid of joining a club that makes them vulnerable to what Horner sees as the number one threat to a healthy club: the married man, whose wife won't swing but who joins the club for a quickie with somebody new. This is not swinging. Hence the secrecy, the discretion, the membership application.

"My club is actually safer for single women than a singles bar because I have the names and addresses on file for all the contacts she will make," he says. "We don't yet have the number of single women that would be desirable but this is normal for this kind of club."

Horner's club claims more single women than most because he will not allow anyone to use the club for commercial purposes: prostitution, selling their own photographs, or, as he explains, "selling dirty panties."

"The single man who makes three to five contacts a week will make out all right in my club," he consoles. "It takes planning to have a good social life." (Horner's only rival at present, the somewhat smaller Adult Social Club in Laurel, Maryland, deals with the single man problem by requiring singles to make advance reservations for parties so that a ratio of no more than two men to one woman is assured.)

Horner is certain that a Supreme Court ruling has made swinging between consenting adults completely legal. "I have a higher regard for the police than to think they would worry about what we do, when they have burglaries and murders to worry about."

Now operating with a part-time staff to help with paperwork and party arrangements, Horner will begin this summer to publish a quarterly sex magazine. He is also planning a string of local franchises in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Newark, New Jersey, Columbus, Cincinnati, Louisville and Nashville.

Concludes the grand swinger-entrepreneur of Washington, "I'd like to have it so people can go to any town where there's a club and know that there's a good party."

## Do they get what they want?

DO the folks who join Horner's swinger's club really get what they're looking for?

Tonight is one of the few, short-lived attempts at swinging parties for singles as well as couples in Horner's club, at a location known only to club members.

It's nine o'clock and the three women and 20 men who have showed up are clinging to the walls, more like transients at a bus station than orgy-goers. A deejay barks into a sound system between disco and country rock hits, shielded behind swirling strobe lights.

Huddled men make jokes about the party's reigning silence, comparing it to a funeral, thus smoothing over the rivalry they feel between them in engaging the attention of the few women. A fiftyish man and woman oil their way alone around the dance floor.

A group of men gathered around Don Horner who before to-night, was just a voice on the telephone hotline to most. Tall and debonair in his three-piece suit, he exudes a fatherly image as the provider, and appears bored at the repeated questions about how he came to launch his club. He is worried over the lack of women and glances continually at his watch.

Ernie, a forty-year-old government worker, bald and chunky, pressures an aloof woman to listen to his candid reviews of all the "ugly" women he has met in the club who are only good for one thing. To him, a swinger's party means one can dispense with polite formalities and proceed directly to discussions of sex, how prostitutes are too business-like to him, how he would rather masturbate, how he has not tried the high-priced call girls, and why he prefers the swing scene.

When Ernie has left, the woman, Sheryl, confides that he is the "most obnoxious man she has ever met," and after a recent divorce from a marriage of 20 years, she can't understand how marriage can withstand this kind of abuse. She fends off several propositions and goes home.

The main topic of conversation is why there are not more women swingers and Carol, who assists Horner in running the party, explains that "women have not been brought up to be as assertive as men in the business world." She counsels the single men to invite their girlfriends.

The explanation does not appear to satisfy Anne, a fifty-year-old housewife listening in who does not swing herself, but who likes to accompany her husband, who does.

Finally, another group of women arrive. One is Ellen, a poet in her twenties who had no idea this was the type of party her date had had in mind.

Of the newcomers, there is one bonafide female swinger. Jean, an Air Force veteran in her thirties who is now a sex therapist. A swinger for about four years, Jean takes pride in giving men "what you know they can't get from anywhere else. But I still reject some since I have known them as people before I can have sex with them."

"A woman is very vulnerable when she's down on her back when there are several men waiting in line," she says to a half-dozen men who've elbowed their way in to be by her side.

At eleven o'clock the deejay announces calmly that the communal room upstairs is now open. A few men glance longingly at their admission tickets.

Towards the end of the evening, a certain amount of traffic has drifted up to the communal room. Inside, five men sit commiserating, exchanging stories of newsletter ads they've all written to and complaining of letters that were never answered. There's a refreshing sense of comradeship in their mutual disappointment, the most honest conversation they've had all evening. A couple barges in and requests the room and the mer., feeling guilty, file solemnly downstairs.

At the couples-only party one week later, the contrast is overwhelming.

More than 30 couples, of diverse race and age groups, are packing the dance floor vibrantly — with none of the empty tension of singles night. The only unaccompanied male is Jerome, a friend of Don Horner's who is there to gather material for the book on swinging he has been working on for five years.

"Horner's club is the most successful I've seen," Jerome says. "That's because Horner is a businessman and you can't run a swinger's club if you're just a philosopher."

Couples party conversation also seems more relaxed and less preoccupied with sex. Jovial foursomes can be seen locking arms in fellowship, making plans for private gatherings. One woman, Olga, will not say yes to a proposition until she can also find a partner for her husband. A provocatively-dressed black woman in her thirties, Ginny, exclaims "I love people, I think they're all beautiful!"

She is there for less than a half hour before she disappears up to the communal room, where the silence is punctuated by moans loud enough to be heard outside in the hall.

— CHARLIE CLARK





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CLARKE DEFENDED

IN HIS LETTER in your last issue, attacking Ward One Councilmember Dave Clarke and promoting Clarke's challenger Frank Smith, Mr. Arthur Waskow wanders far from the truth. Since I know Frank Smith, and know that he would not want to be elevated by inaccurate statements or given credit for the labors of others, a reply to Mr. Waskow is in order.

Mr. Waskow makes much of Dave Clarke's alleged "isolation" and "mediocre legislative record" on the Council. Having worked with and around Dave Clarke for over one-and-one half years as a council staff person, I can say from experience that Mr. Waskow is trumpeting a fiction. Dave Clarke is probably the hardest-working legislator on the council. Dave personally studies, carefully, the legislation on which he votes, a thoroughness which has won him the respect of his colleagues who do not always do likewise. It is true that some become annoyed, on occasion, when Dave raises troublesome questions which it would be much easier to ignore. This hardly speaks ill of Dave, however.

If Mr. Waskow had spent more time at the council he would know that lack of teamwork plagues the council as a whole, and not Dave Clarke. Dave has done as much as anyone to try to build coalitions on specific issues. But Council members like Dave need the help of organized and focussed community pressure to bring their colleagues aboard. Unfortunately, much of the energy that might have gone into community organizing here has been drawn off into the political arena instead.

The charge that Dave Clarke's legislative effort is "mediocre" is partisan posturing. Perhaps Mr. Waskow will tell Gazette readers who on the Council has a better record than Dave on major issues such as speculation and rent control which directly affect the people of Ward One.

Mr. Waskow also makes much of Dave Clarke's alleged deficiencies on the speculation issue. This too is a matter I know something about. I was part of the Anti-Speculation Task Force before Frank Smith hit the scene, and while a council staff person I had primary responsibility for the anti-speculation bill. From this experience I find the inaccuracies in Mr. Waskow's letter shameful in both statement and innuendo.

First, the original anti-speculation bill which Dave Clarke introduced soon after taking office was intended mainly to get the issue onto the council agenda, which it did. Dave introduced this bill before Frank Smith, myself, or anyone else had brought the issue before the Council in this concrete way.

Second, Mr. Waskow implies for Frank Smith a degree of credit for the October, 1975 Antispeculation Task Force Bill which I am sure Frank himself would not claim. This bill was drafted almost entirely by attorney Rick Halberstein, with some help from myself. Furthermore, if Mr. Waskow would read this bill, he would find that, contrary to his assertion, it is not the one the council actually passed.

Thirdly, Mr. Waskow's portrayal of the controversy over rehab costs is a mishmash, the details of which would only bore your readers. Suffice it to say that Dave Clarke's revised bill allowed for the deduction of such costs; and the accusation that Dave was out to turn the District into "permanent slums" borrows curiously from the rhetoric which speculators hurled around the District Building.

Hitting Dave with the speculation issue is a high-water mark in partisan chutzpah. It is simply incredible. Dave was the conscience of the council on this issue. While some of his colleagues were refusing to deal with the issue, it was Dave Clarke who doggedly pushed it along. (The tapes of the meetings of the Committee on Finance and Revenue will prove this point to anyone who cares to check.) And pushed it, I might add,

without much help from community representatives, who for long months did very little while speculators and their friends had the run of the District building. I know because I was there. Community organizations such as AMO are overextended, it is true. They cannot muster the sustained presence of their well-financed adversaries. But this does not entitle the boosters of former community-group leaders to turn upon their Council advocates when these leaders decide to make a run for the Council themselves.

And before Mr. Waskow accuses Dave Clarke of alienating other council members by calling them sell-outs, he had better make sure his candidate was not using similar language while the speculation bill was making little apparent progress through the Council.

It is not pleasant to write this letter. Frank Smith and Dave Clarke both have my respect, and I am not criticizing Frank Smith in any way. Nobody expects political campaigns to be Platonic dialogues, but they can and must show some respect for truth. For this reason it is important to correct the inaccuracies which Mr. Waskow's letter has laid upon the public record.

JONATHAN ROWE

### CLARKE & HOUSING

EACH OF US WHO IS signing this letter is a person who has become or is about to become a homeowner on Seaton Street, 12th Place, or in the Kenesaw Cooperative. The purpose of this letter is to indicate that each of us supports Councilmember Dave Clarke for reelection.

In doing so, we want to make clear that we do not deny nor are we ungrateful for the contributions of others. Our intent is not to be negative toward anyone but to recognize and affirm the work Dave Clarke has done with us.

In each of our projects, we found Dave Clarke to be accessible, creative, and forthright. On Seaton Street, when the speculators were beginning renovations in units which were still being lived in, Dave Clarke pushed through emergency legislation to prohibit such conduct and now that legislation is permanent. He creatively moved an amendment to make Seaton Street a community development area while moving funds from administration to the rehabilitation loan fund to enable the commitment of rehabilitation and refinancing without taking from other areas he represents. On 12th Place, he brought together needed resources — particularly by arranging for counsel and working with the Housing Department to assure early commitment of rehabilitation. At the Kenesaw, he became a constant advocate within the government for the project and gave crucial support to Council approval of reprogramming funds after the executive branch obligated what had been set aside for the Kenesaw. In the case of each project, he supported, attended, and personally gave to our fundraisers.

Dave Clarke did what he did because it was the right thing to do. He never refused to do anything because someone else might get the credit, and he did many things for which there was little or no credit given. Today, after the glory has passed, he continues to stand with us as we work through the details of implementation. He is working with those of us on Seaton Street in negotiations with our contractor; he is trying to assist those of us on 12th Place to find alternative housing during rehabilitation; and he is in constant consultation with those of us in the Kenesaw.

Finally, perhaps more than anything else, Dave Clarke has not found it necessary to discredit anybody else's contribution to us. Indeed he acknowledges such contributions, even from those persons who would minimize or deny his own. This positivism and forthrightness has reflected itself in his work, and it is this as well as the content of his contributions themselves which cause us to endorse his candidacy for reelection.

SEATON STREET: Rev. B. Gallimore, Joseph

Lewis, Jr., Barbara Graves, Edna L. Izzard, Allen Izzard, James Bolton, Henry and Bessie Pannell, Floyd E. Rollins, Larry Rollins, James E. Contee.

12th PLACE: Maxine Ashford, Sadie Goddard, Aquilla Lesesene, Alfreda J. Brown, Sarah van Brakle, Mae L. Harris.

KENESAW: Silverio Coy, Maria I. Perez, Hilda Reyes, Ruben Dews, Canida Patino, Randy Keeden, Awanda Robertt, Elmina Otway, Bernice Askins, Cornismeh, Jorge Brizuela, Viddina Azendez, S. O'Malley, Ceresa Somarriba.

*Okay, that's it, Ward One fans. We won't be out again until after the primary so you'll have to continue the fight in the Rock Creek Monitor or the Washington Tribune. --Ed.*

### SPECULATION ODE

*THEY took our house and put us out,  
for just a little while;  
They'd build new ones and let us back  
They told us with a smile.*

*A big high rise stands on that land;  
The prices are so great  
We couldn't pay the hallway rent  
At that enormous rate.*

*Then our new place — soon it was sold,  
And so we moved again.  
"The slums must go — the inner town  
Must be made fit for man."*

*Now must be built a freeway broad,  
For auto drivers' speed.  
We gathered up our stuff once more,  
To serve the city's need.*

*The tow'ring blocks of buildings rise,  
The streets help traffic zoom;  
Expensive, grand, but now we know,  
For people there's no room*

V. L. GRIMES

### PEPCO SETTING RATES?

AS A RESULT of the damage of the early July thunderstorm, PEPCO stated on the radio that the ratepayers would pay more. PEPCO should know that the Public Service Commission makes that decision. I would suggest to PEPCO to continue to produce electricity, and permit the Public Service Commission to decide what the ratepayers will pay.

ROLAND RIER  
Chairman, Utilities Committee  
DC Federation of Civic Associations

### WHO'S THELONIUS?

WHO IS THELONIUS, your new national correspondent? My neighbor says it's a nom de plume for Hugh Sidey, but I think it's really Henry Brandon trying to learn the accent. Which of us is correct?

SALLIE WELLS

*Sorry, but you're both wrong. His full name is Thelonius P. Waldrop III. He has been practicing journalism here without a license for more than twenty years. He does not have a White House press pass, is not accredited at the Capitol, and has never been taken to lunch at Sans Souci by a federal official who was subsequently indicted. He is therefore uniquely qualified to comment on the great flow of national events. --Ed.*

*We'd like to remind you that the Gazette is not published during August. We are taking a vacation, deserved or not. The Gazette is published ten times a year, being the first monthly in the nation to convert to the metric system.*



# IS THE SYSTEM CRAZIER THAN DOUG MOORE?

ONE OF THE QUESTIONS you have to decide about the race for the city council chair is whether the system is crazier than Doug Moore. If it appears to you that the methods and standards of local government planning and management are utterly sane and balanced, then by all means you should vote for Arrington Dixon. If, on the other hand, you have had experiences with zoning, education, water bills, public transit or emergency services that suggest a touch of madness at city hall – if, so to speak, you have been bitten by your own government, then you should consider the possibility that Doug Moore is your candidate. He may just seem crazy because he's not part of the system.

Yes, Doug Moore. The mad man of Newton Street. Yep, that's the one. I'm not arguing with finality that you should vote for him. I'm just suggesting that, given the alternative, it is reasonable to consider doing so lest you delude yourself that patina is substance and that respectability is progress.

I've been considering it for many months myself and I'm not much further along than when I started. I had hoped that John Wilson would run, providing a compromise route out of my dilemma. John has a tolerable mixture of idealism and pragmatism. He also, virtually alone among his colleagues, has a sense of irony about the role he and his peers have chosen. In a very few words, delivered in a sort of oh-shucks-guys voice, Wilson can penetrate the absurdities of the council to a degree that even the other members have to laugh at what they're doing. That's good, but irrelevant since the illness of John's wife has intervened and prevented his candidacy.

So it's down to Moore and Dixon. Let's take the obvious choice first. Arrington is a pleasant, decent, intelligent and hard-working member of the council. He would preside over the council with dignity and without the sort of sly manipulateness and petty scheming that has typified the current incumbency. He believes in computers, compromise and being nice to people even when you disagree with them, although it sometimes borders on a Nelson Rockefelleristic hyperenthusiasm. And like his engineering colleague, Jimmy Carter, he believes that when you can't do anything else with a problem you can always reorganize it.

But – and this is a big but – he is also considered, whether by design or accident, the darling of the real estate lobby and they are paying handsomely to move their man along. As of June 10, the last contribution report filing date, Dixon had received over half his big money from banking and real estate interests. He can claim to be his own man, but the money tells another story.

It's not a unique situation in DC politics. After all, all three of the major mayoral candidates are to a greater or lesser degree hostages to the land lobby. But there's the problem. Do we really want a mayor and a city council chairman tied so closely to the Board of Trade and the realtors? What will be the final cost of this extra dash of respectability?

I would argue that the main reason not to vote for Arrington is not because he is evil, mean or dangerous. It's because he is redundant. Another leading politician linked so closely to the interests that are driving people out and mortgage rates up, gobbling up neighborhoods, scurrying around for huge public handouts, replanning the city for profit rather than for communities, is gilding the lily.

Dixon would not deliberately set out to do these things, but he is in a politically weak position to prevent them. The existing system would find little trouble continuing with, say, Tucker as mayor and Dixon as council chair.

None of the leading mayoral candidates have made a firm commitment to protect us against the landed gentry, but in the council chairmanship race it's different. There is a choice. And how we make it may make a big difference as to what happens to this town.

Admittedly it's not a sublime choice. I'm not talking about Moore's occasionally bizarre behavior. The city's housing department and our representatives on the Metro board almost weekly engage in more bizarre acts than anything Doug has been accused of. Besides, there's a cultural flavor to the hor-

ror over Doug's antics. There are too many whites who shrink at Doug Moore but think Hamilton Jordan is cute.

I'm not talking about his supposed incompetence for the job. I don't believe it. Any city that lets William Spaulding plan its new university or Jerry Moore its transit system doesn't really care about competence. Besides, if Moore were elected, the council would quickly retrieve some of its powers that it let itself get conned out of by Sterling Tucker.

Nor am I talking about Moore's rhetoric, which would have been considered Tomish in the 1960s. Doug's flights of rhetorical fancy don't bother me because sometimes he's just telling the truth and so few people bother to do it these days that it sounds exaggerated. Other times he exaggerates because he knows it's the only way he'll be heard. The days when expressions of anger and outrage were considered almost a prerequisite to change are over. Julius Hobson is dead, Charlie Cassell has dropped from view, Stokely Carmichael likewise. Doug is the last of an oratorical tradition and the fact that it sounds strange and alien should embarrass us more than it angers us. We have once more become the people Frederic Douglass warned us against: we want the ocean "without the awful roar of its many waters." We want solutions without contention, programs without debate, salvation without any sense of urgency. And we don't want our smugness shaken by a few malcontents who think our efforts too little and too late.

And, yes, sometimes Doug exaggerates for no good reason. Even fights dirty. I don't like it. But it's very vulnerable hyperbole – easy to puncture – unlike the sober lies of those claiming that a convention center will save the city or that Metro will solve our transportation problems or that \$1 million is a housing program. A lie is no less so simply because it's wrapped in modulated tones and moderate adjectives.

No, the reasons not to vote for Doug are other than these. First, I might not vote for him because I think he has failed his beliefs. He has been right about self-government, the economics of the city and the failure of Metro. He is right about the complicity of the city council in the land grab. But he has failed to turn his concerns and ideology into something that others could grab on to and help push. He has been a critic but not a catalyst. He has been dilettantish when he should have been diligent. He has let many people down who would have willingly followed his lead, had he chosen to lead.

The problem is to turn ideology into some sort of coherent action. Julius Hobson knew how to do that; Doug Moore apparently doesn't.

My second complaint with Moore is a simple one of issues. I disagreed with him on the Sizemore affair and with his stands on marijuana, gun control, gambling and homosexuals. Dixon has a far better record in these issues than does Doug. With the exception of education issues, however, these are not the most pressing matters in the city. It is far more likely that Dixon's debts to the land lobby would prove more important than Moore's homophobia.

Still, Moore's position on these issues gives one pause. If it were not for them, it would be easier to vote for him, easier to see his efforts to keep this town from falling into a trance under the hypnotic spell of the Board of Trade, Washington Post and politicians who think progress is a second term, easier to see how he has served as a conscience for the council, a spur and a check, a spy within its midst.

If Moore is defeated it will be more than his loss. It will mean the end of righteous indignation and of loudly articulated anger and the triumph of institutionalized complacency.

Perhaps he is only a remnant of a time that placed a higher value on change. Perhaps he didn't carry the cause well because the cause was lost anyway. Or perhaps the path between now and something better will narrow noticeably without him.

I don't know. I do know that Doug Moore reflects some of the anger I feel about the capitulation of the city government to the gougers and the strip-miners. How I vote will probably be decided by how mad I am about it on September 12.

– SAM SMITH



# THE POTOMAC: WILL THE WATER RUN OUT?

BY STUART PREGNALL

WHAT WOULD YOU think if in ten years you couldn't take a shower after playing tennis? If you were prohibited from boating on the Potomac? If public drinking fountains didn't exist anymore? If dishwashers, washing machines, and toilets all had meters placed on them to regulate the amount of water they used? What would you think? Or, more appropriately, what *do* you think, because decisions are being made now that will affect Washington's water supply for the future.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has circulated to local jurisdictions and area libraries a draft water resources management plan that outlines the region's proposed approach to improving the quality and quantity of our water. The federal Clean Water Act authorized the Environmental Protection Agency to charge regional authorities with the responsibility of developing plans to provide water clean enough to support aquatic life and recreational use by 1983, and eliminate the discharge of pollutants by 1985. EPA gave COG the job.

The plan's recommendations to resolve the problems of water quality and quantity exhibit a noticeable reluctance to do more than maintain current programs and propose few new guidelines. Unfortunately, this approach simply isn't enough, and the result is going to be a lot of unhappy people in Washington and an unhealthy river. People can suffer for a while and not be terribly miserable -- Californians learned to refrigerate their booze because water was too precious to make ice cubes during their recent drought. But the Potomac isn't as clever as Californians and there aren't any easy solutions or quick remedies for an unhealthy river.

Besides the water, the Potomac contains a vast number of organisms -- fish plankton, grasses, and lots of little crawly things with Latin names that nobody cares about, and further down towards the mouth and the bay, crabs, oysters (a few) and lots more little crawly things. The Potomac also has a large number of birds and land animals that frequent the river, including man. To be able to support this life, the Potomac must provide a balanced diet of necessary nutrients and clean, drinkable water. Without becoming involved in nitrogen cycles, dissolved oxygen balances, saline content, and the effect of turbidity on primary production, let it suffice to say that maintaining a river's health is difficult.

The water plan does nothing about how much water the Potomac River should contain in the future. There is a nice little statement to the effect that conservation measures proposed by COG in 1973 should be continued, but that was five years ago and the only "conservation measures" most people are aware of around here are the emergency kind mandated during long droughts like last summer. At the same time, the population of this area continues to grow in an unmanaged way. What happens in 1995 when the population of the area reaches COG's estimate of 4.5 million people? Some chump will turn on the faucet in his newly bought house and nothing will come out, because there won't be enough water to go around. Sounds crazy? Well, here are some numbers.

At the moment, the Washington Aqueduct and the Washington Sanitary Services Commission both draw water from the Potomac, clean it, and send it to you ready for drinking. With a service population of about 1.2 million people apiece, they've already drawn 450 million gallons per day from the river during peak demand periods. Now the WSSC wants to expand its capacity to take water from the Potomac and Fairfax County wants to put in its own pipe to draw water for its expanding population. A 1995 population between 4 and 4.4 million people could create a daily demand between 750 and 825 million gallons. But the low flow record in the river was 388 million gallons per day in June 1966.



Photo by Leonard Cohen

This potential is realized and some agencies are seeking a reasonable solution. That solution, however, will either be to control the growth and development rate in the area, or will propose incredibly expensive construction. Either way, there will be people who won't like the solution, but you can't argue long without a glass of water to soothe your throat.

In dealing with Potomac water quality, the water plan relies heavily on construction of the controversial and expensive Dickerson Water Treatment Plant proposed for Montgomery County. Dickerson is controversial because it would dump treated sewage into the Potomac above the intake pipes for the Washington area water supply. Maryland sued EPA, hoping that the courts would overturn EPA's objections to the plant and give approval for the project. A recent court decision, however, turned down Maryland's appeal, and it seems that the Dickerson proposal is dead for the time being. COG is now altering its water plan and will probably advocate the construction of two or three smaller treatment plants in the area.

COG didn't comment on the effect that Dickerson or any sewage treatment plant might have on the area's water supply. The effluent discharged into the Potomac following sewage treatment is little more than water. But it's that 'little more' that gets you: chlorine and some sewage eating viruses and bacteria. There is evidence that the chlorine can be absorbed by detritus in the river, which would create chlorinated hydrocarbons, which, in turn, cause cancer. COG, in short, is supporting a plan that would put cancer-causing agents into our drinking water supply. Nobody really knows what the sewage eating viruses do to you; they just know that viruses thrive on raw sewage.

COG also supports construction of the Piscataway Plant in Prince George's County. Piscataway would discharge the same effluents, but below the area's water supply intake pipes. The chlorinate hydrocarbons and the sewage eating viruses, however, would flow into the estuary and on to the Chesapeake Bay.

Actually, the only water treatment plant pollutant that COG recognizes is sludge, which is all the goo left over when you've finished treating sewage. Sludge is an interesting beast, being both potentially beneficial and harmful depending on how you tame it. Most sludge is buried or composted these days, but unless area citizens want a new sludge-formed Shenandoah Range, burial isn't the answer. Sludge can also be burned, but air quality standards prohibit this from being economically feasible. The US Department of Agriculture is working on some interesting uses for recycled sludge, particularly in the form of compost for farming use, but they haven't got all the problems solved yet to make it attractive and marketable. I hope they keep trying. Sludge is also produced when water for drinking is taken out of a river and sediments, algae and miscellaneous items are removed from the water. It might be logical to just dump it all back into the river, since that's where it came from, but it turns out that it's usually contaminated in some way, and even if it weren't, it causes a huge



siltation problem. The COG water plan doesn't address the existence or disposal of this not so little item. COG, to its credit, does propose a regional ban on detergents with phosphates (something that should be done nationwide) which would be extremely beneficial for everyone.

The COG water plan also discusses other forms of pollutants that have a readily identifiable single source. Industrial wastes are not a concern for the water plan, for the facile and negligent reason that the area contains so few industries. All it took to ruin the James River for years was one little warehouse operation called Allied Chemical. Also, the water plan considers mining wastes as coming from a general source and not a specific one, and should therefore be subject to a different set of rules. Again, this is folly and incomprehensible -- if a mine isn't a readily identifiable single source of something, than what is? COG seems to duck these issues pretty well.

Pollution that occurs from rain water runoff is the most difficult to identify and control, and yet it may be the most damaging form of pollution in the Potomac. Rain water collects everything -- herbicides, fertilizers, oil on the streets, sulphur particles in the air, and worst of all, silt -- and dumps it into the river through the storm water drainage systems. Silt is all of the dust and dirt and eroded materials that muddies the water, blocks light from organisms that need it, clogs fish gills, and smothers plants and immobile animals. Silt is also a byproduct of agriculture and construction. The amount of land used for agriculture in the area has diminished and the amount of construction has increased. So has the siltation. There are erosion control programs in all local jurisdictions and COG says that they are adequate but would benefit from more supervision. I think COG is wrong, that a new, standard set of erosion control regulations could be adopted throughout the region, and that those regulations should be enforced. This would prevent the increasing erosion and siltation problem and would also prevent any jurisdiction from accusing another of not being tough enough on erosion control. Since our silt smothers marshes in Maryland and Virginia and decreases the ability of hundreds of organisms to live and multiply in the bay, it's not unlikely that some day, somebody is going to complain loudly.

COG notes that during the winter months the flow of water in the

Potomac is greater and the rate of primary production is reduced. COG reasons, therefore, that the Potomac can accept more wastes during that time to cut down on pollution control costs. At this point, I throw up my hands. Would you dump oil, detergent and garbage on your lawn during the winter just because it wasn't growing then? Even if you cleaned it off before spring, there would still be a residue left that would affect the health of the lawn. This is what COG proposes to do to the Potomac, and all to save a few million dollars. Personally, I would rather spend the extra few dollars per person per year than pollute the river during the winters.

But the lack of vigorous and specific proposals isn't what bothers me most about the COG water plan. It isn't the support of the Dickerson Plant. What bothers me the most is that I don't get the feeling from reading the plan and its recommendations that the people who wrote it recognize the Potomac for what it is, that they understand the dynamics of the a river, that they appreciate it. I get the feeling that they see it as something that is there for us to use and exploit and that the Clean Water Act is a measure to protect an investment. That is indeed part of the act's intent -- to protect and preserve a vital resource. But the legislation wasn't written with just that in mind. Protection of the environment and ecology aren't just a new issue that has been put over on everybody by a few narrow-minded, scare-tactic people. It's a recognition that we aren't alone in this world, that we share it with a lot of different people and organisms and physical things, and that we are all very dependent upon each other for survival. There will have to be some give and take, some species will die, and others will take their place, for that is the natural order of things. But we cannot continue our indiscriminate taking, taking, and taking, and giving nothing back but trash and garbage and waste. The Clean Water Act was written with this in mind, and we should keep it in mind when we make decisions about water, air, and just about everything else that we do.

If we who pollute the river don't clean it up and keep it clean, we're not being responsible caretakers of our habitat. I don't think that we really want to be known as people who were content to live in their own filth. If we don't care about the future, then we will do nothing. But when our children ask why we didn't do anything, what will we say?

## American Journal

### Marketing Voluntary Simplicity

NO PART OF THE AMERICAN DREAM stands clear of the marketplace for long. The latest idea/commodity to set corporate tongues to wagging is voluntary simplicity, a back-to-the-basics, self-reliance ethic that, paradoxically, may spur a new wave of mass consumption.

In pure form, voluntary simplicity is doing more with less. It is rooted in human scale, self-determination, material simplicity, ecological awareness and personal growth. It differs from involuntary simplicity -- i.e. poverty -- in that you chose it, choose to rid yourself of excess baggage, both physical and spiritual, to break the addictions to things that marks American life.

Voluntary simplicity has been around under one name or another for some time. It's only in the past few years, however, that environmentalists, New Age spiritual disciples, natural foods advocates, back-to-the-land homesteaders and post-hippie businesspeople have combined to form a movement of sorts -- and sent corporate trendwatchers scurrying to their flow charts and story boards to figure out how to make a killing on these newly popular lifestyles.

Just how many people actively embrace VS principles is unknown. Estimates vary wildly, from 50,000 to five million. Regardless of numbers, their influence on society has been felt in diet, physical fitness, religions, clothing and publishing where the late *Whole Earth Catalog* introduced VS values to millions.

Voluntary simplicity became a hot item when the Business Intelligence Program of the Stanford Research Institute released an enthusiastic report on it in 1976. The report was the most popular ever done by SRI, a non-nonsense marketing outfit with annual sales of over \$100 million, whose ardor for small-is-beautiful blossomed with unseemly haste.

Last year, SRI updated its research with a revised report and reader questionnaire in *CoEvolution Quarterly*, a magazine successor to the *Catalog* which people in government, science and business use as a sort of party line on which to eavesdrop on the bright young technicians of the counterculture.

SRI's assessment of voluntary simplicity for its blue chip clients was reassuring and shrewd. VS, they concluded, is not so much a challenge to the prevailing system as a modification of it, a valuable safety valve through which to let off the accumulated steam of discontent. When VS adherents say they don't want to buy much, the report concluded, what they really mean is that they don't want to buy often: if products are durable, esthetic and practical, VS people will buy them and pay top dollar.

SRI's not-to-worry signals to big business are part of a familiar pattern. Innovation in America nearly always goes through a three-step process that begins when creative people spark new ways of being and doing, passes to small entrepreneurs who develop goods and services to accommodate them, and finally -- if a groundswell develops -- is taken up by large corporations that introduce it, much diluted, to a mass market.

Voluntary simplicity has taken its first two halting steps in the dance of commerce, and is on the verge of taking the third. This became clear to yours truly on a recent visit to the New Earth Exposition, a combination trade fair held in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Boston. It was a mind-boggling event, spread over four days and as many acres, that featured state-of-the-art solar technology, "ice cream" made wholly from soybeans, lectures on herbal and chiropractic medicine and a scale-model of an existing house that runs on wind and solar energy.

Most Expo exhibits were from small businesses and communes, but Time-Life Books and Pacific Gas & Electric, northern California's monopoly utility, were at the San Francisco show too, seeing what the traffic would bear. Traffic was heavy, and it's bound to get heavier. According to SRI's research, the "simple" market will reach well into the billions by the year 2000.

Clearly, there's much about voluntary simplicity that is admirable. It's less wasteful than conventional lifestyles, often imaginative and, in the job-sharing and employee ownership of many businesses that claim VS principles, it brings democracy to the workplace. The goods-and-services quality of VS outlets is also unusually high.

Still, there are disturbing notes. Voluntary simplicity is largely restricted to the well-educated, white middle and upper class people who can afford to make major life changes. It may, with success, provide an unintended cover for the very rich to live in the style to which they have become accustomed, while the rest of us pursue an elusive goal of independence in a vanishing Jeffersonian dreamscape of cottage industries and small farms.

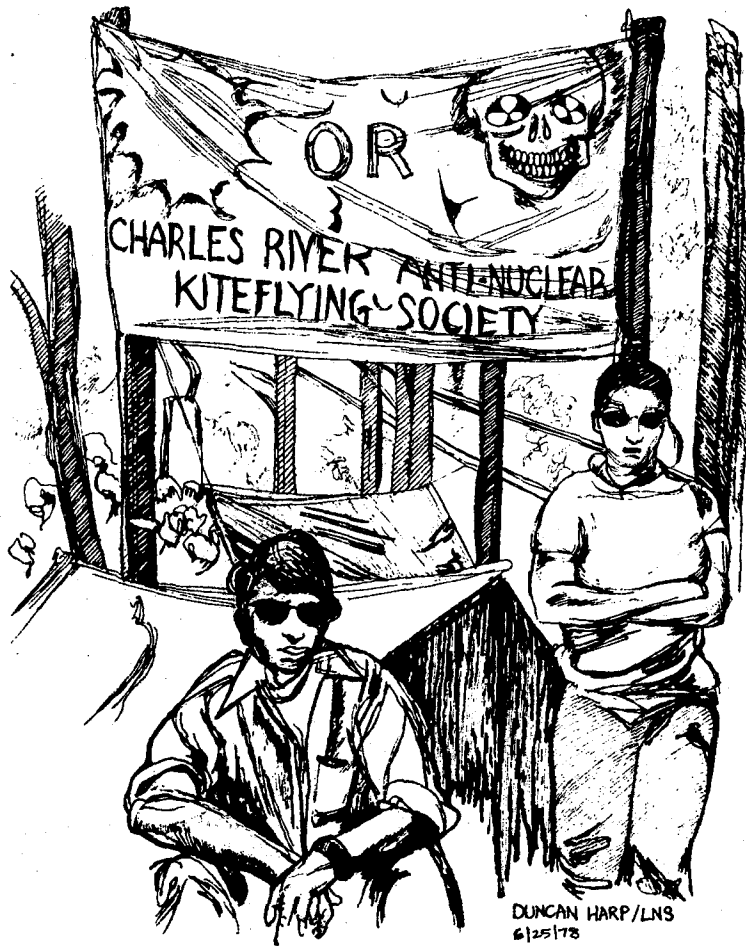
Sherry Thomas, a small farmer and co-editor of *Country Women* magazine, touched tellingly on this recently when she wrote: "It's easy to romanticize both self-reliance and material simplicity. . . . Taxation policies, subsidies to agribusiness, monopoly of feed and equipment companies, land speculation, ecological destruction by local corporations -- these are not incidental to our little 'voluntarily simple' farms -- they are part of a careful web to insure that the small and independent farmer won't survive. And, short of major social changes, many of us won't."

Thomas sees VS as a 'stop-gap, thumb-in-the-dike tactic,' VS enthusiasts see it as The Answer, big business as the Next Big Thing. It's this last factor that means the move for people who haven't yet heard of, let alone adopted, voluntary simplicity, for only corporate America has the power to plant VS offshoots in the local supermarket and climate-controlled shopping mall.

When McDonald's announces it's all-new 'Tofu 'n' Twinkies Combination Plate,' you'll know it's arrived.

— DAVID ARMSTRONG





## SEABROOK '78

*The press called it a country fair.*

*Three DC area demonstrators found a different story.*

BY JONATHAN GIESELER, SALLIE McELROY, JACK THOMAS

ONLY TWO WEEKS before the June 24 Seabrook demonstration the question came to a head: should there be civil disobedience? The doubt was caused by the sudden withdrawal of support by many Seabrook residents who opposed construction of the plant. Some, who had provided land for camping, told of harassment by state and utility officials. But more wanted to avoid another mass arrest, such as happened in 1977 when over 1400 people were incarcerated.

The alternative for the Clamshell Alliance, organizers of the demonstration, was to accept the proposal by New Hampshire Attorney General Rath which would allow for a legal demonstration on the Public Service Company property. At first, the organizers decided to accept the proposal with conditions, one of which was the suspension of construction until safe and permanent radio-active waste disposal could be demonstrated. This was essentially a rejection since such facilities do not yet exist and there is argument as to whether safe storage can ever be proven. Finally, however, Clamshell accepted the Rath proposal, promising not to support any civil disobedience.

By the time out-of-staters began arriving in Seabrook on Friday evening, there was little more information available than that there was indeed a legal demonstration planned for the weekend. Signs stating simply "No Nukes!" directed the travellers from the highway to six different campsites provided by local residents. They gathered immediately into their affinity groups to exchange information and plan their actions.

Eight thousand arm bands identifying occupiers were distributed on Friday and Saturday. Those without arm bands were not allowed on the site until Sunday and asked by Clam peacekeepers to leave before dark Sunday night.

The occupiers began early Saturday to prepare for the four mile walk to the PSC site. Each was expected to carry all the food and water needed for the three-day occupation. As a rough line formed on the road, political banners and even an American flag unfurled. One affinity group from DC had a banner depicting "Virginia's Incredible Sinking Nuke" at North Anna, Virginia. The two-by-two line stretched well over a mile down the road as passing autos honked and waved their approval of the march. Plastic trash bags were distributed for the collection of litter along the way.

What some reports referred to as a 'country fair' atmosphere was actually more like a huge weekend teach-in. Listings for the "Free Learning Exchange" were posted near exhibits and in the woods where the occupiers were camped. These discussion groups focussed mainly on energy issues, but also included

talks on alternative lifestyles, practical home technology, environment, etc. Music by both local and well-known musicians were interspersed with speeches by long-time critics of nuclear energy such as environmentalist Barry Commoner.

Many of the speeches associated the development of nuclear energy during the fifties with the military use of nuclear power and its dangerous potential if acquired by terrorist groups. The only way to protect against such a possibility is for the military to assume responsibility for the safe keeping of the bomb-grade materials. The assertion was that the government had committed itself before the long-range impacts of the new technology could be fully assessed. It is only now, twenty-five years later that the more difficult problems, such as permanent waste disposal and escalating costs, are getting any attention in the mass media.

The utilities were accused of making exaggerated claims about the economic feasibility of nuclear power in order to receive a larger guaranteed return on their investments. Nuclear opponents point to the emerging gamut of solar technologies as alternatives that are environmentally clean, safe, and declining in cost as compared with both fossil fueled and nuclear plants, which have been escalating in cost faster than the general rate of inflation.

For example, eighty miles away, the town of Springfield, Vermont, has embarked on a plan to renovate several small dams that are expected to generate power for all local electrical needs, with surplus to contribute to other New England utilities. Other Vermont towns are considering similar pursuits and the Vermont Energy Office has published a survey of abandoned dams being considered for power generation. In fact, a recent study by the US Army Corps of Engineers states that additional generating equipment installed on already existing dams nationwide could add 54,000 megawatts to the country's power pool. That is equivalent to about 50 conventional nuclear reactors or about 23 Seabrook-size complexes. Another recent study by the Council on Economic Priorities indicates that twice as many jobs are created by investing in conservation and solar energy devices than with the same investment in nuclear energy devices.

Much effort went into preparing exhibits of such alternatives to the partially constructed nuclear plant. Merchants and conservation groups set up working windmills, wood-burning stoves and solar projects which powered electrical devices, distilled drinking water and baked muffins. Speakers proudly announced that the first energy to be produced at the Seabrook site was solar powered. Five hundred pounds of fresh flounder were donated by local fishermen, who are concerned about the plant's environmental effect on their livelihood.



## MAKING CHOICES AT SEABROOK

SIX hours of non-violence training was required of every occupier. Training included agreement to mandatory Seabrook guidelines, sharing of feelings, fears, questions, participation in role plays and finally, formation of affinity groups. Some of the guidelines included the following, as listed in the Seabrook '78 Handbook: "No drugs or alcohol; no weapons of any kind; no damage or destruction of PSC or Seabrook property; no breaking through police lines; no dogs; in case of any confrontation, we will sit down." These guidelines were devised early in the planning for Seabrook when it was believed that all occupiers would commit civil disobedience.

Toward the end of each training session trainees were asked to form themselves into affinity groups of about 10 to 20 persons each. Each group was to be self-sufficient, responsible for carrying onto the site all of its needs for three days: food, water, camping equipment, restoration project and latrine-building materials, first aid supplies, etc. Before embarking for Seabrook each affinity group met several times to plan for these needs and to select persons to fill the roles of 'spokesperson,' medic, media communicator, legal specialist, 'peacekeeper' and 'support persons.' (Peacekeepers at Seabrook were involved in patrolling the gates and generally helping nonviolent communication between occupiers and outsiders. 'Support persons' were those not planning to commit civil disobedience.)

Affinity groups were formed into clusters of 200-300 persons each. When a decision was needed it was discussed in the affinity group, consensus reached, and the spokesperson then attended a meeting of all the spokespersons in the cluster. They shared each group's decision; discussed it and sometimes offered new proposals. The 'spokes' then took these new proposals back to their affinity groups; there was more discussion and consensus at the group level, another meeting of the 'spokes' until all affinity groups reached consensus on the same proposal. This process was repeated at one more level for decisions involving the entire occupier population, each meeting of affinity group spokespersons choosing a cluster representative to act as spokesperson for the entire cluster.

Consensus decision-making is time consuming but necessary in order that each person contribute to each decision and that there not be a tyranny of the majority over the minority. The handbook states, "Under consensus, the group takes no action that is not consented to by all group members." One strong objection can block consensus, thus blocking the action. There are, however, also ways to express a milder objection without blocking group action.

On Saturday afternoon, June 24, the question of committing civil disobedience was again raised at one of the learning exchange workshops. Clamshell had decided on a legal demonstration with no civil disobedience but 200 or so New England demonstrators said they had not participated in this decision and felt that confrontation with authorities by occupying the site beyond Monday, with the ensuing arrests, would create the most powerful impact for the Seabrook campaign.

The issue was brought before the meeting of cluster representatives Saturday night at 7:30. The group decided a discussion meeting for all concerned was advisable; the time was set for the next morning, Sunday, 9:30 am. When the meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm the cluster representatives brought the issue back to their cluster. Affinity groups met late that night or early the next morning and then sent at least one spokesperson to the Sunday morning meeting.

About 500 people gathered on the wood chip pile under the hot New Hampshire sun for the meeting. Persons representing both sides of the issue felt the credibility of the entire movement was at stake, some feeling that violating the agreement for a legal demonstration would destroy Clam credibility with the New Hampshire government, the PSC and local Seabrook residents. Others felt that a demonstration with no civil disobedience and arrests would be of no political import. Still others were just distressed that they had had no voice in the decision to eliminate the civil disobedience from the Seabrook scenario.

Issues are not easily discussed nor decided by a group of 500 people. After some heated comments on the issue, several incursions of a police helicopter drowning out all audibility, criticisms of consensus decision-making and a proposal that the consensus process be abandoned, someone shouted, "But we haven't really given consensus a chance here!" The meeting agreed to a roll call of the 222 affinity groups present. After this two-hour exercise in patience and endurance, a proposal was made to group into clusters then and there on the wood chip pile.

Twenty some cluster representatives stood and identified themselves so that the several hundred occupiers could shift positions as necessary and settle themselves in their own respective cluster circles scattered around the wood pile. Some people rushed off to get opinions from other affinity group members, and some to fetch plastic jugs of water from thirsty friends. (Few clusters had more than about twenty people present; other occupiers were helping with peacekeeping, traffic control, leafletting, answering questions, and explaining alternative energy exhibits to a crowd of 12,000 that were entering the site for the day's activities.)

There were proposals of various alternative forms of civil disobedience, and reminders by some that the civil disobedience planned by the Seabrook Natural Guard (not by Clamshell itself) for Washington DC would be the most appropriate expression of civil disobedience.

By 1:00 pm consensus had been reached within each cluster.

There began a roll call of clusters. As cluster after cluster reported, it became evident that virtually everyone supported leaving the site Monday. Only 10 to 12 individuals still felt strongly about committing civil disobedience. Apparently the ten or more hours spent in discussions brought most people to agreement. All occupiers did leave the site Monday and some of those with strong feelings favoring civil disobedience came to Washington to participate in the civil disobedience committed at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

— J.G., S.M., J.T.

By Sunday evening, some groups were beginning to pack up and leave, in keeping with the agreement for all demonstrators to vacate the premises by 3:00 pm Monday. Many met again in Manchester, New Hampshire, where 1,700 marched to the Environmental Protection Agency hearings on the plant's cooling system.

Seabrook '78 was not over yet as several hundred journeyed to Washington DC to maintain a fifty-six hour vigil on the sidewalk outside the Nuclear Regulatory Commission where suspension of the construction license was being considered. Despite the act of civil disobedience which resulted in fifty-six arrests, the group was committed to non-violence and the mood was relaxed. The eight-day series of events ended when the news was announced of the decision to halt construction of the Seabrook nuclear plant.

Now the Environmental Protection Agency will begin a review of Seabrook's ocean-water cooling system which is designed to pump over a billion gallons

of heated water each day into the delicate coastal ecosystem. Since the suspension of the plant construction, New Hampshire Governor Thompson has filed suit with the US Government and the PSC has said that it intends to erect a test windmill on the site. Perhaps in its search for energy options, New Hampshire voters will consider alternatives to its three-term governor and to the related assumptions such as 'Bigger is Better' that are holdovers from the past.

To keep up with the anti-nuclear efforts in the DC area, contact:

The Potomac Alliance  
PO Box 9306, DC 20005  
234-4623 or 462-4620



DUNCAN HARP/LNS



# OUTSIDE WASHINGTON

THE QUESTION OF THE MONTH IS: will there be a medical school for Alan Bakke to go to? The incursion of California into national affairs reached such frightening proportions in June that the press almost forgot about the Cuban menace in Africa. The concern that the Washington Post might dispatch a refitted battleship to Havana harbor for appropriate disposition waned as Proposition 13, Bakke, Jerry Brown and Linda Ronstadt swallowed up the news hole.

It would perhaps be a sign of exemplary journalistic discipline to leave the first two matters unmentioned, but I can't help but pass on my fascination with some of their media-related aspects.

Proposition 13, like many of the great events of our time, sprung out of nowhere a few months before the referendum. Prior mention had occurred, to be sure, but it was strictly crap-box stuff, not a revolution about to shake the nation. With five hundred reporters available to cover Richard Nixon's pathetic Lazarus parody in Kentucky, why had so little attention been paid to the rumblings along the San Andreas fault?

There are at least two good explanations. The first is that the national press still can't believe anything important is going to happen outside New York or Washington. This is partly due to provincialism and partly to the death-watch tradition of journalism. As a general rule, death is more important to a newspaper than life. Although this is commonly spoken of as an emphasis on bad news over good, it actually borders on necrophilia. War, drought, eight-car smash-ups, earthquakes, child murderers and the run-of-the-mill obituary are the stuff of any self-respecting journal. A political demonstration without arrests or violence is back-paged; witness the recent international whaling conference we only heard about on national TV because a Japanese delegate took a slug at a protester.

Whatever the reasons for this, and undoubtedly reader preference is one, the press is an institution peculiarly equipped to observe decay but not other forms of change. It is natural, therefore, that this principle should lead it to focus on New York and Washington, rather than on a place like California which, even if it is also decaying, is at least going down with a style that obscures the fact.

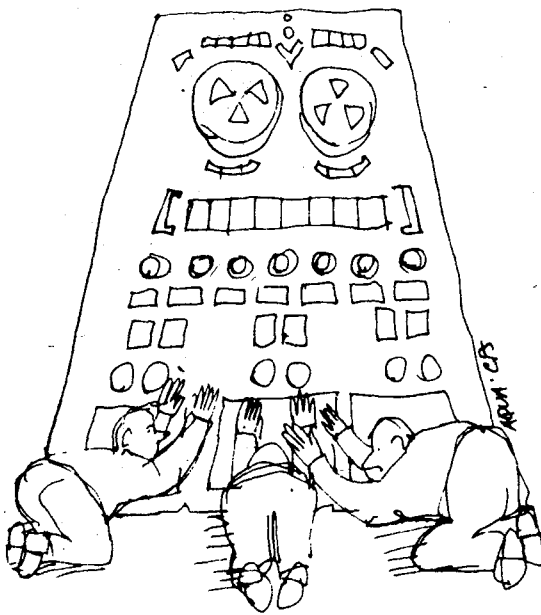
If one is interested in what is going to happen next, as a journalist presumably should be, California is as good a place as any to watch. And we've had plenty of warning, long before Proposition 13, Bakke and bare wood tables surrounded by plants in our formerly dim restaurants. The sixties, the drug culture, the energy confrontation, and the synthesizing of E.F. Shumacher's vision into political components all owe much to our largest state. Since such matters remain alien to most east coast journalists even after the rest of the country has become resigned to them, it is not surprising that California should be covered with the intensity of new developments in paleobiology.

The second reason Proposition 13 passed us by for so long was the press's reluctance to tell us too much about tax reform. The basic journalistic approach to reforming taxes is that you lower them. The possibility that the tax burden might properly be redistributed among the various classes paying them gets little mention. And for good reason: newspaper, networks and publishers are potential targets of such reform. The Washington Post, for example, covered local tax changes assiduously for many years never once mentioning that its own sizable property was being dramatically underassessed.

There are many alternatives to the Proposition 13 meat-ax: recapture of excess profits at time of sale, homestead exemptions, circuit breakers, differential rates for large and small taxpayers, tax deferral, extension of the property tax to other forms of wealth (such as stocks, bonds, antiques, etc.), and a progressive property tax. The press will report on these alternatives when forced to by political events but it won't go out of its way to tell you that someone somewhere else may have found a partial solution to your problem.

Newspapers and publishers are large property-owners and any reform other than general tax relief of the sort of Proposition 13 is likely to increase their taxes.

To test this theory for yourself, check your fav-



orite daily for the first mention of the North Dakota progressive property tax plan. For more than forty years, the North Dakota Farmers Union has been arguing that property taxes should increase faster than the value of the land held. In other words, a farmer owning land worth \$200,000 should be assessed at 14% of market value, while someone owning \$1 million worth of land should be assessed around 40% of assessed value. The basis would not be each individual parcel, but the total land held by an owner.

Since it makes as much sense to preserve the small homeowner as it does to preserve the small farmer, such a plan is worth discussing in an urban context as well. For one thing, it would end the inconsistency that occurs when you have dual rates for commercial and residential property: Under a dual rate structure, someone owning a \$300,000 house pays a lower rate than a small business owning a \$50,000 storefront. Further, it would force the revelation of true ownership of urban land, currently obscured by such plays as dummy corporations.

But although this is an eminently arguable proposal with application throughout the country, you can be reasonably sure the press will avoid it like the plague. It would be to it and its major advertisers. Better to just let things simmer and then boil over, for when that happens matters will be so confused that big business may come out the winner anyway — as appears to have happened in California.

The Bakke case found the press not so wanting. There were some good discussions prior to the deci-

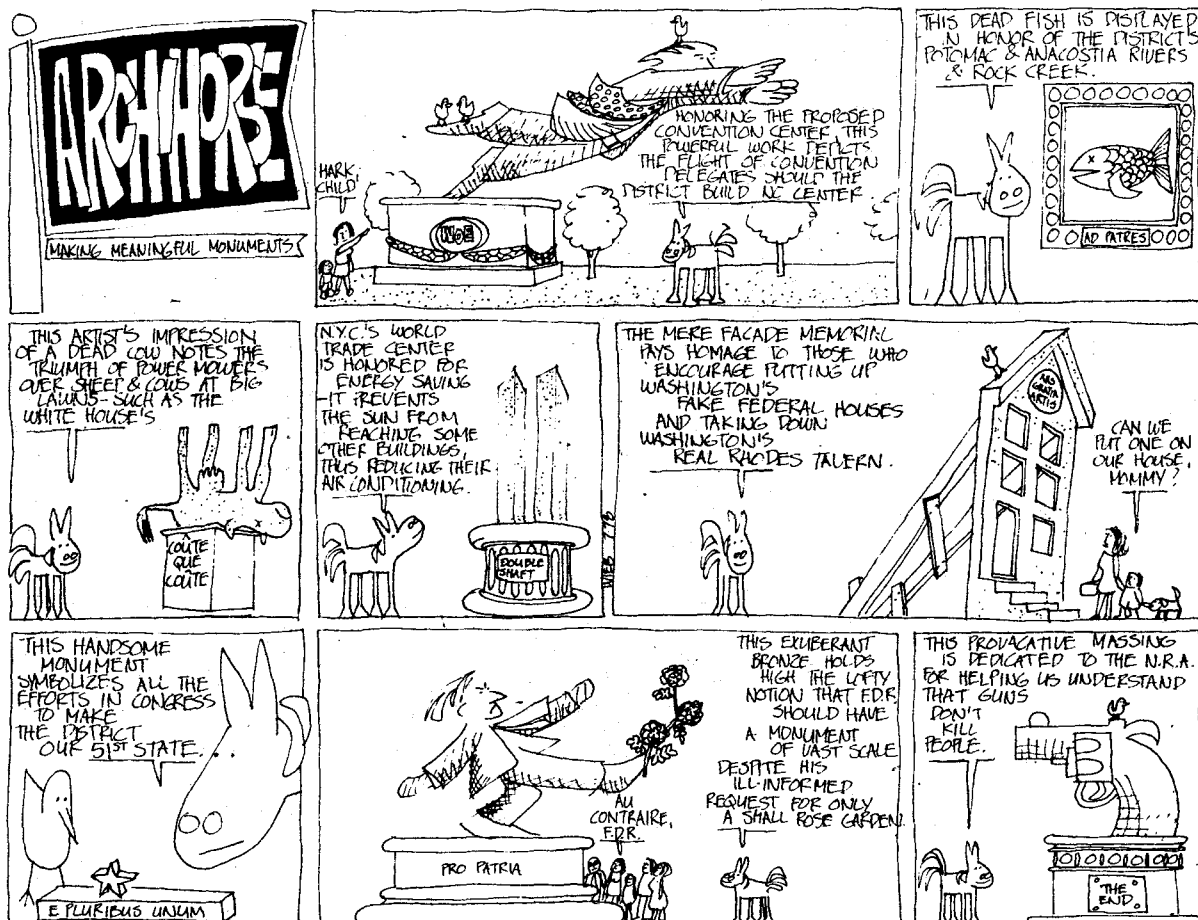
sion, but, as always, the press tended to reduce the issues to the either-or demonator needed to identify a public matter to the public repetitively over a period of months. Since there wasn't the space to explain every day what Bakke was about, the inevitable short-hand developed that reframed the issue until the complexity of the affair was fully obscured. I suspect that some of the relief of both sides over the decision stemmed from reading what was one of the best journalistic expositions of the issues in the case, written by the justices themselves.

As for Jerry Brown and Linda Ronstadt, the major concern seems to be that the relationship may be platonic which raises in some minds the fitness of the governor for higher office. The optimistic view was expressed by Papa Brown who, upon meeting the two at an event, chose to remark how it refuted the rumors about his son's sexual drives.

This may seem trivial but since the other major pretender to the White House — how long, oh how long, America? — is Teddy, who has quite another reputation, and since no one seems to have the slightest idea what either would do once they got into office, such extraneous matters assume a significance at which we shouldn't sneer. Besides, a marriage at Malibu would be the perfect kickoff for a campaign.

JUST WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS BECOMING totally exasperated with open, honest government (they apparently assumed it would be competent as well), I am beginning to warm slightly to Mr. C. His vigorous attack on the Steiger Amendment, which would cut the capital gains tax for high-rollers, was the sort of stuff I had expected from a Carter administration. And I was further delighted to discover that Patricia Roberts Harris, as she is constantly and unpopulistically referred to, is still in office. I had lost track of her somewhere about the time that Joseph Califano put in his kitchen, but lately she has returned to the prints with such remarkable proposals as arguing that federally funded public housing should not be limited to the elderly and that the federal government shouldn't go around telling communities how to zone their land.

Carter is, of course, in trouble with the economy. It was only a matter of weeks after the stock market decided that the country was not about to fall apart that interest rates started rising and the recession talk began anew. I make no pretense of understanding the intricacies of the economic ebb and flow but I tend to agree with a friend of mine who once noted that at the end of every traffic jam was a policeman.





This appears to be the case in economic matters as well, except the Federal Reserve Board makes its appearance at the beginning rather than at the end.

Given that even the city council of DC has voted to raise interest rate ceilings to 11% (while simultaneously supporting lower property taxes, thus, in effect, redistributing some of its income to the savings & loans), I am also becoming convinced that what this country needs is an Anita Bryant who will travel throughout the land preaching the political implications of the biblical injunction against usury.

THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION has placed Seabrook on hold and the Environmental Action Foundation, in its excellent publication "The Power Line" (\$15 from EAF, Suite 724, 1346 Conn. Ave., NW, DC 20036) suggests that nuclear power may be dying for, among other reasons, its costs. The Power Line quotes a House report, Nuclear Power Costs, prepared by the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee:

"Contrary to widespread belief, the report declares, 'nuclear power is not longer a cheap energy source.' It goes on to say that once the eventual costs of nuclear waste disposal are taken into account, atomic power may be 'more expensive than conventional energy sources such as coal' and 'may not be economically competitive with safe, renewable resource energy alternatives such as solar power.'"

EAF also quotes an admirable metaphor by Amory Lovins: "Nuclear power is dead — in the sense of a brontosaurus that has had its spinal cord cut, but because it's so big, and has all those ganglia near the tail someplace, you keep thrashing around for years not knowing it's dead yet."

I hope he is correct because the Supreme Court has now approved a \$560 million limit on liability in the case of a nuclear power plant accident. Says Warren Burger: "The record... fully supports the need for a statutory limit on liability to encourage private industry participation." While Ralph Nader rages that this will make the power companies immune from 95% of the damages that might occur in a nuclear accident, the mere demand of the companies for such protection gives us a reading of some of the dangers involved. I'm not sure that the case for avoiding a \$5 billion disaster is that much stronger than for one that might only cause \$560 million damage. But then the figures get hazy when they're that large.

I HATE TO RAISE the law and order cry just when things were settling down, but even your typical fuzzy-minded liberal judge is likely to hand out a jail sentence when someone is caught stealing \$40,000. I notice, however, that David Begelman, former head of Columbia pictures, was given a \$5000 fine and three year's probation for such an offense recently. All muggers please copy. But then it occurred in Burbank and as I was saying about California...

THE JUNE 12 ISSUE OF THE VILLAGE VOICE included an important column by two New York city council members decrying the loss of democracy in that town in order to salvage the city finances. It is a remarkable story, unfortunately not unique in history, of how people are willing to trade self-government for a promise of security — in this case to a financial control board, a majority of whose members don't even live in the city.

QUOTES YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED: Andrew Young on Africa: "We are concerned about the cross-the-border incursions from Angola into Zaire. But for two years, there have been cross-the-border incursions from Zaire to Angola and in a sense we can't stop one without stopping the other. If we are holding the Cubans, the Angolans and the Russians responsible for their allies, then we should also assume some responsibility for our allies."... FROM BOB KAISER AND WALTER PINCUS'S report on Jimmy Carter's Annapolis speech: "Officials in the White House, State Department and the Defense Department emphasized yesterday that the Annapolis speech was couched largely in Carter's own words, and that little of it was taken directly from the recommendations of others. Therefore, several officials said, the speech should not be subjected to rigorous diplomatic analysis, but should be read as a general statement of the president's policy." And Carter thought he was going to change this town.

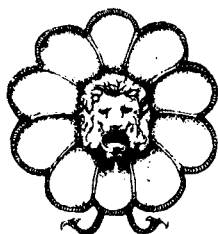
A COUPLE OF HAPPY FINAL OMENS. The Russians have been urging people to write Jimmy Carter on preprinted forms telling him what they think and the Chinese are going into the fast food business including mass-produced noodles, dried bean curds and pre-packaged substitutes for the traditional mantou or steamed roll cooked at home. All of this is being spurred by China's booming petrochemical industry which is starting to manufacture large quantities of plastic bags. Pretty soon we'll have nothing to fight about.

THELONIUS P. WALDROP III

## The McLean Gardens Residents Demands



In March 1978, CBI/Fairmac sent Notices to Vacate to all McLean Gardens tenants for the purpose of discontinuing McLean Gardens as a rental property. Residents were immediately subjected to a barrage of letters and notices issued by CBI/Fairmac, which continues to harass remaining tenants. In May 1978, a proposed sale by CBI/Fairmac to Mr. Dwight W. Mize was announced. Within three days, the city's Housing Office approved Mize's Condominium Conversion Certificate of eligibility. McLean Gardens Residents deplore and protest these actions and assert the following demands:



McLean Gardens Residents Association  
P.O. Box 39030  
Washington, D.C. 20016  
Mr. Chester Nauminow 363-8276

- One year moratorium on mass evictions, nullifying pending notices to vacate
- Prohibition of mass evictions as long as there is a housing shortage
- Establishment of an approval process for mass evictions after the moratorium expires and the shortage ends
- Elimination of "Discontinuance" as a mechanism for landlord/developers to circumvent other provisions of the law
- Implementation of a vacancy tax to force landlords to rent all vacant apartments
- Legislation to stop the demolition of existing housing structures
- Information from the D.C. and U.S. Governments on all services, financial and otherwise, available to tenants
- A comprehensive D.C. housing policy responsive to the needs of middle and low income tenants and the preservation of rental housing.
- Rent rollback of recent 2-10% rent increases, in light of the absence or regulations for tenants to challenge and appeal such increases
- The provision of a selling price, where condominium conversion is unavoidable, to renters which is far below the popularly advertised price
- Rescinding the March 1978 CBI-Fairmac evictions at McLean Gardens
- Rollback of the November 1 McLean Gardens 13% and the May 1 9% rent increases
- Revocation of the recent approval of the Mize Condominium Conversion certificate for McLean Gardens
- Citywide support of the aims and aspirations of this first annual tenants convention





## Land lobby active

AS OF JUNE 10, the last filing date before our deadline, real estate and financial interests had spent well over \$70,000 to influence the outcome of the Democratic primary. But like everyone else, there is no unanimity among the brokers and bankers in the mayor's race. All three of the leading candidates are receiving large donations from these interests. Walter Washington, who entered the contest formally shortly before the filing, had received 44% of his large contributions (\$100 or more) from people who can be identified as in the real estate or financial fields. Sterling Tucker follows with 31% and Marion Barry is not far behind with 27%.

These figures understate the true level of real estate/banking influence in the campaign. For one thing many of those who list their occupation as lawyer or doctor in campaign reports are actually heavily into real estate. Further, all three candidates failed to identify the occupations of many of their contributors as required by law. Finally, Walter Washington's report reflects only the earliest stage of fund-raising since he entered the campaign so late.

Walter Washington, who had done no small-dollar fund-raising as of June 10, received 97% of his contributions in sums of \$100 and up, 73% in sums of \$500 and up. Sterling Tucker, who had raised over four times as much by June 10, received 69% of his contributions in \$100 plus sums and 44% in \$500 plus amounts. Almost a third of Tucker's super contributors live outside D.C.

Marion Barry has received 54% of his contributions in sums of \$100 or more and 18% in sums of \$500 or more. In other words, although Barry and Tucker had raised roughly comparable sums (\$104,000 for Barry and \$117,000 for Tucker) Tucker has received three times as much in contributions of \$500 or more.

What is perhaps most striking about the mayoral contribution is that less than 3% of all \$100-plus contributions come from federal or local government employees. By default, the funding of local political campaigns has been turned over to business and professional interests. The only major exception to this in the mayor's race is Walter Washington, who had received 22% of his large contributions from labor unions.

But if the real estate, banking interests and other big money are split in the mayoral contest, they're clearly decided on their choice for city council chair. Arrington Dixon had received over half of his large campaign contributions from the real estate and banking lobby, and 43% of his large contributions has come in donations of \$500 or more. Doug Moore, on the other hand, had raised only \$2500 by June 10, mainly from a restaurant, a doctor's political action group and Herbert Rothberg of Central Liquors.

Unlike the mayoral candidates, Dixon, however, listed the occupation for all his major contributors.

H. R. Crawford lists 56% of his large contributions as coming from persons in the real estate and banking fields. Bette Ann Kane, one of his opponents in the race for an at-large seat on the council, listed only 4% of her contributions as coming from those sources.

## CLARIFICATION

You can put your needle-point badges on again. That story in Ear about "the irate aide of the candidate who burst in on his cutie as she succumbed to the Candidate's charms" was not about Barry.

The other race in which the land lobby has taken an interest is in Ward Six where Nadine Winter had received 41% of her large contributions from it and Patricia Press had raised almost all of hers from it.

In short, the land lobby is once again hard at work making democracy safe for speculation. The most vulnerable citywide candidates to the lobby's pressure, at this point, appear to be Arrington Dixon and H.R. Crawford. But all three major mayoral candidates are heavily sedated with real estate and banking money.

## Praise of Flood's

WE KEEP FORGETTING to tell you of the immortal words of Daniel Flood as he voted for DC representation in Congress: "I might add that my vote was not only one for DC voting representation. It was a vote for Fauntroy!!!" (The exclamation points and the quote comes from Walter's newsletter.)

## Afro edgy

TROUBLE FOR UDC boss Lisle Carter from a surprising source. A recent editorial in the Afro-American said the following:

*"We, like many other interests in town, are not satisfied with the progress at the University of District of Columbia. We, like others, question the ability of the present leadership to stimulate the faculty, the student body and the citizenry of the District. . . . It seems to us that the leader of the university needs the passionate appeal of a Martin Luther King; the administrative skill of insurance executives Spaulding and Jesse Hill; the financial acumen of an Andrew Brimmer and the political skill of an Adam Clayton Powell.*

*. . . While no one person can have all of the ideal qualities, a team of executives can be recruited that will be a combination of these virtues.*

*It can't be, as it is now, a group of educators hired on a 'buddy system,' whether by political, urban league or regional connections."*

## Who gets riffed

THE NEW CITY PERSONNEL bill, which has been put on the shelf until after the primary, contains some important provisions concerning reductions in-

force. Under the RIF policy, employees who receive outstanding performance ratings would get an extra four years seniority. Such a procedure would have mitigated some of the bad effects of the school system riffs over the past couple of years. . . . At the same time, however, the bill continues the preferences for people with federal civilian or military service but with no credit for work at the state or local level. The problem with this was raised during the controversy over teacher riffs: someone could have worked as a postal clerk for ten years and a DC teacher for one; this teacher would have seniority over someone who had worked 20 years for the Montgomery County schools and one year in DC.

## Rental hotline

THE RENTAL ACCOMODATIONS OFFICE maintains a tenant hotline on 727-4919. The hotline answers questions on the rent control law and offers guidance on problems such as: relocation, eviction, code violations and harrasment. The RAO has also published a 'Guide to Rental Housing Law,' which is available from the office. Polly Shackleton says that she also has copies available at her Ward Three office at the Chevy Chase Center.

## Post haste

AT LAST REPORT, the Newspaper Guild was still trying to get a new contract from the Washington Post that would reflect the impressive profitability of that corporation. The Post's attitude was neatly summarized by the paper's negotiator, Larry Wallace, who said on April 26, "We know the Washington Post corporation is profitable. We intend to keep it that way." The Guild has pointed out that one of the reasons the Post is so profitable is that it has sales per employee of \$93,000 compared with an industry average \$54,000. The haggling has been going on for more than two years; the Post, armed with its strike-breaking plans and assured that this town will be as indifferent to a Guild strike as it was to the pressmen's walkout, is taking it on a slow bell, watching the profits rise as the reporters fume.

## RAP raided

WE NEGLECTED to mention (along with most of the rest of the media) an incident that occurred some weeks back at RAP Inc. US Marshalls, attempting to arrest a RAP resident for a parole violation, stormed into RAP without a warrant. RAP director Ron Clark objected vigorously and ended up being arrested. It took a meeting between city councilmember Dave Clarke, Chief Marshall Jerome Bullock and US Attorney Earl Silbert to get the charges dropped. The Marshall's office seemed a bit embarrassed by the whole affair, as well they might, especially since the man they were looking for had turned himself in in downtown just about the time they were strongarming RAP.

## They could have saved the Gardens

A FEW YEARS ago we suggested that the city should buy McLean Gardens and then sell it back to a tenants' cooperative. The assessed value then was less than \$15 million. We argued that it would turn out to be one of the cheapest housing programs the city had ever funded.

Now McLean Gardens is being sold to a private developer. The price: \$30 million. The developer plans to renovate but keep the existing buildings -- the very buildings CBI-Fairmac claimed were too antiquated to rehab. Fairmac let the property deteriorate, drove some of the tenants out, wanted the rest out by fall. But the parcel still went for \$30 million.

The irony of this is that with a little less rhetoric from city politicians and a little more money, McLean Gardens could be today in the hands of the tenants themselves. It would have proved an excellent investment for the city as well, so good in fact that if all the tenants had defaulted the city still would have doubled its money.

Since tenants around the city continue to be evicted in large numbers to make way for conversions, now would be an excellent time for the city to come up with some money so renters can turn into owners. We could start small, say with the \$27 million the city is planning to waste on the first phase of the conven-



tion center. We might even find the habit of using public money for useful things addicting.

## DC best for women?

IF IT'S ANY COMFORT to you, Redbook Magazine claims that DC is the best place in America for a woman to live among the 30 largest cities of the country. Redbook rated the cities on a point system using eight different categories, including jobs for women, the number of women elected to office, etc. DC ranked especially high in jobs and income for women. San Jose was second followed by Denver and Minneapolis. The five worst cities, according to Redbook, are St. Louis, Miami, Atlanta, Tampa and Kansas City.

## Rush to raise

DAVE CLARKE was the only councilmember who stood up to the savings & loans when they came around in June hustling an interest-rate ceiling hike.

## Our picks in the Democratic primary

### FOR MAYOR: MARION BARRY

*Marion has his problems and, like his major opponents, has been feeding too freely out of the trough of the Board of Trade, but he is still the best hope of this race. John Ray is promising but doesn't seem to stand a chance. If worse comes to worse, we could live with Walter another four years, but if you vote for Tucker we hope your apartment is converted into a condominium and that the Rental Accommodations Commission turns down your appeal without comment.*

### FOR CITY COUNCIL CHAIR: WHO KNOWS?

*You're on your own, gentle reader, for reasons outlined elsewhere in this issue: Dixon certainly acts like a typical city council chairman but then that's not saying much. Moore represents interests that badly need to be represented; unfortunately he doesn't do it very well.*

### CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE BETTY ANN KANE

*Kane is the pick of the litter this year. Get her into office and maybe the rest of what happens won't be so bad. Marie Nahikian is also good, but we feel Kane is both a better and a stronger candidate. As for H.R. Crawford, who needs one more convention center-supporting realtor's toady on the council?*

### WARD ONE: DAVE CLARKE

*If you've been reading our letters column, you know that the ward is badly divided between Clarke and Frank Smith. We still stick with Clarke, who has done a fine job on the council -- with the notable exception of supporting the convention center, and deserves another term.*

### WARD THREE: POLLY SHACKLETON

*Polly isn't perfect -- her support of educational funding was weak, but she's far more progressive than many of her constituents, has stood up to the land-grabbers and been truly concerned about health services. She rates another term.*

### WARD SIX: NO CHOICE

*Ward Six hasn't made any contribution to the political well-being of this town since Marty Swaim left office. The tradition is continuing in the Democratic primary. Fortunately, Anton Wood will be running in the general election.*

Declaring a spurious emergency, the council voted to hike the rates without hearings. Even Doug Moore and Hilda Mason went along. The interest ceiling is 11% -- up from ten percent. You'll probably will be hearing some of these councilmembers talking about inflation during the current campaign. Ask them why they contributed to it.

## Job creep

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED that joblessness among minority youths in this city hit 48.5% last year. What you may not have noticed is city auditor Matt Watson's study of job availability for recent high school graduates in the city government. The highest grade you can get with just a high school education is a GS-2. Out of 15,371 office-type jobs in the government, only 53 are GS-1 or GS-2 slots. Most of these are in the Department of Human Resources. Six years ago there were 555 such jobs. Incidentally, a GS-2 starts at \$7000 a year, 17% higher than the minimum wage for clerical help in the private market.

## Stop on red

ANOTHER TIP OF THE HAT to Dave Clarke for introducing a bill to prohibit the mayor from issuing any regulations that would permit right turn on red. Clarke says the right turn on red rule is dangerous to pedestrians, the blind and bicyclists (which includes Dave). Pedestrians would have to "contend with one-ton hunks of steel to cross intersections for which they have the green light" and cyclists who "already have to dodge opening doors and vehicles departing parking places without their drivers checking behind them will also have to contend with vehicles turning right in front of them." The federal government is pressuring the city to adopt the rule.

## Furthermore...

THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS Society is starting an eyeglasses "Lost and Found." If you find a pair of eyeglasses lying around, don't throw them away. Send them to the Prevention of Blindness Society Lost and Found, 1775 Church St. NW, DC 20036. To find out if they have yours call 234-1010. Glasses not claimed within thirty days will be sent to New Eyes for the Needy in New Jersey which recycles the metal parts.

MORE THAN A DOZEN local organizations have joined to form the DC Tax Coalition. Among other activities, the coalition intends to print an information sheet on tax issues, and conduct training seminars on effective tax lobbying. Members include the League of Women Voters, Common Cause, the Tax Revision Commission, the DC Tenant Congress and several ANCs. For information call Marie Nahikian at 667-9142.

THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A HOT STORY in the Post's Sunday Magazine about Sterling Tucker using a Republican political consulting firm. Unfortunately, the item in the "Suspensions" column had already been printed as major news by the Star. Mike Kiernan got there first.

OF COURSE, STERLING mixing it up with the GOP shouldn't be that much of a surprise. He was a Republican back in his Ohio days and even thought about running for the GOP presidential nomination as a fav-

orite son back a few years. He and H.R. Crawford should get along just fine.

THE LOCAL CHAPTER of the World Population Society has published a 'Directory of the Population-Related Community of the Washington DC area. Contains descriptions of 165 non-governmental organizations, government agencies and congressional committees with an interest in population problems. You can get a copy for \$1 from the WPS/DC Chapter, c/o 1650 N. 21st Road No.1, Arlington, Va. 22209.

PLAN FOR CLEVELAND PARK: After many months of workshops, surveys and studies, the Citizens for City Living, a Cleveland Park planning group, has come up with a draft plan for the neighborhood. The plan aims at keeping the residential character of the community, preserving open space and limiting new commercial development. The plan favors downzoning Wisconsin Avenue in Cleveland Park to the existing use; permitting up to six story buildings on Connecticut Avenue (east side) and four story (west side); limit apartment buildings on Wisconsin Avenue south of Macomb to 60 rather than the present 90 feet; place left turn restrictions all along Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues during rush hour to prevent "commuter jogs" through the community; reroute commuter traffic off of Reno Road at Tilden Street in the morning and at Massachusetts in the evening through the use of barricades; provide better traffic control on 34th Street; and provide improved neighborhood bus service.

LOWELL STREET SCHOOL MOVES: Lowell Street School is no longer on Lowell Street. It moves to 16th & Kennedy NW at the Sixth Presbyterian Church in August. Lowell offers half and full day programs for three to five year olds and was long a popular educational fixture in Cleveland Park. To find out about the school call 362-2234.

### FREE MUSIC AT THE FOUNDRY SUNDAYS 130-430 PM

JULY 30: Potomac River Boys and the Trinidad Steel Band  
AUGUST 13: Irish Traditional Music and the Kenny Reed Quintet  
AUGUST 27: Gospel by the Richard Smallwood Singers and Dixieland by the Federal Jazz Commission.  
SEPTEMBER 10: Lydian Chamber Players, Lisa Clarke Dancers, and None of the Above.  
SEPTEMBER 24: The Londonaires and the Dottie

SCHISM IN GEORGETOWN: The Community for Creative Non-Violence has been protesting Holy Trinity's \$400,000 renovation fund, claiming that the money could better be used to provide an emergency shelter for evicted people. The Community has been leafletting and standing throughout masses as a means of demonstrating their concern over the large sum being raised to renovate the church. The Community is located at 1345 Euclid St. NW (667-6407)

FORT RENO CONCERTS: Fort Reno is featuring concerts once again. They're on Tuesday and Friday nights from 730 to 930 pm. All cars must park either on Chesapeake St, the Wilson parking lot, or on Fort Drive in front of Alice Deal. No booze or drugs permitted.



**GEORGETOWN RECYCLING:** Unicycle, a GU recycling group, has established a recycling center behind the Healy Building at 37th & O NW. That's structure that looks like a castle. Paper and aluminium items are accepted. Suggested times to use the dumpsters are weekday evenings or any time during the weekend. Info: 625-3027.

**MUSIC IN THE GARDEN:** Decatur House, on Lafayette Square, is offering free music at noon every Thursday through the end of August. The musicians will play in the garden and you are invited to bring your lunch.

**RECYCLING CENTER OPEN:** The Dupont Circle Ecology Corporation has a recycling center on 25th St. between M and N every weekend. Items should be bagged. They'll take newspapers, phonebooks and aluminium. Please crush your cans. Call Judy Zuckerman for information at 234-5166.

**THE FIGHT TO SAVE RHODES TAVERN** is gaining momentum. A citizens committee has been formed which is urging people to petition and write the mayor and city council. You can find out more by calling Bill Canis evenings at 234-8312.

**THAT HEARING** on the convention center has been postponed by Sterling Tucker. Seems they decided it was "premature."

**THERE WILL BE A HEARING ON JULY 27** on a bill co-sponsored by Nadine Winter and John Wilson that would prohibit the demolition of designated landmarks unless it necessary to allow the construction of a project of special merit or if the owner can prove economic hardship. The legislation would also control alterations and subdivisions of individual landmarks and in historic districts, and control new construction in historic districts.

**JOHN CARTER BROWN's** cavalier attitude about the destruction of Rhodes Tavern is nothing new for Fine Arts Commission chairmen. The CFA has, at various points in its history, supported the tearing down of the Old Post Office building, the Willard and Washington hotels and some of the townhouses on Lafayette Square. Well, nobody's perfect.

**THE TAKOMA THEATRE** is showing old but good films Friday and Saturday evenings and at Saturday

#### WHERE TO FIND THE GAZETTE

##### CHEVY CHASE

Connecticut & McKinley (SW corner)

##### FRIENDSHIP

Wisconsin & Jennifer (SW corner)

##### TENLEY CIRCLE

Wisconsin Ave opposite Sears

##### CLEVELAND PARK

Wisconsin & Newark (SW corner)

##### DUPONT CIRCLE

Outside 1739 Conn. Ave.

Connecticut & Que (SW corner)

Kramer Books

Bread & Roses

Dupont South Metro (at Dupont Circle)

##### DOWNTOWN

17th & Penna Ave (NW corner)

K between 19th & 20th (north side)

19th & M (SW corner)

Conn & M (SE corner)

Conn & L (SE & SW corners)

17th & K (NE corner)

If one of our cheerful yellow machines fails you, call us 232-5544 and we'll send you a copy in the mail.

matinees. You can get a bargain card good for ten admissions for only \$10. The Takoma Theatre is at 4th & Butternut Sts. NW, and the phone number is 829-0001 or 291-2784.

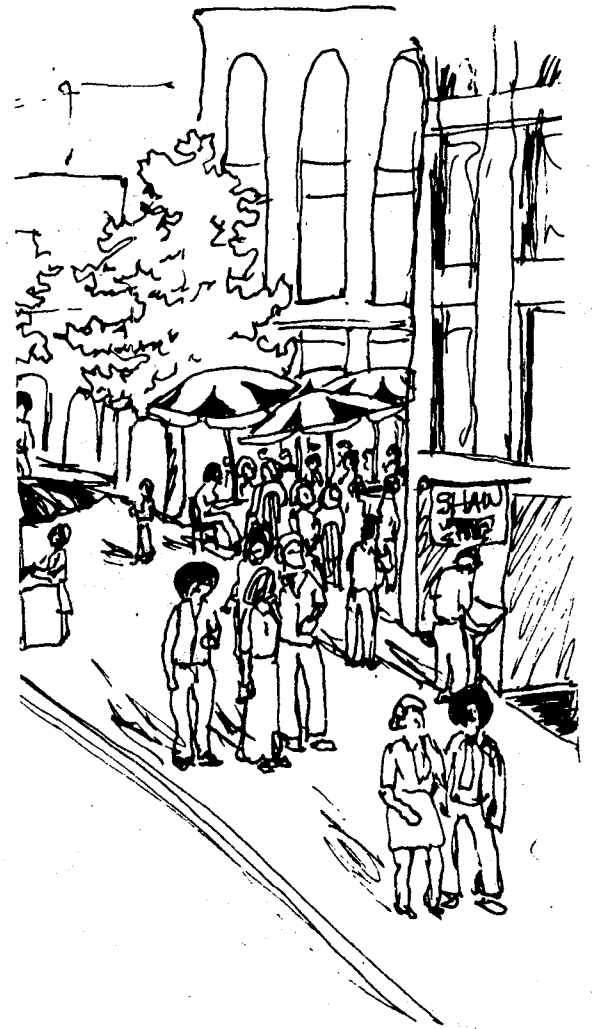
## Give blood before you go.



Less Lucky People  
In Our Hospitals  
Depend On You.

Washington Region  
**American Red Cross** +

**SEEK BUILDING PERMIT NOTICES:** The city is still not providing ANC's with building permit application notices. The Massachusetts/Potomac Commission is seeking to enlist other neighborhood commissions in an effort to force the city to provide the notices.



**WITH A LITTLE HELP  
FROM OUR FRIENDS**

Jerry Hagins helped with the research  
for this issue.

## Dupont Circle: Killed by kindness

BY WARD BUCHER



WHEN the last family is forced out of Dupont Circle, I hope they replace the fountain with a giant tombstone. On it would be chiseled the words: "Dupont Circle: KILLED BY KINDNESS." Below that epitaph would be the list of all the murderers. They would include the YMCA, the First Baptist Church, the Masons, the American Trucking Association, Brookings, the Australian Embassy, the Salvation Army and hundreds of others.

Now these are not the kind of folks you would ordinarily think of as evil. Yet as each one tries to use its real estate to do good, it drains out a little life from its hosts. Eventually these hundreds of leeches will kill the patient instead of curing it.

The doctors who brought the leeches are the national and local governments. The leeches are fed and encouraged by special zoning laws and tax free status.

The pattern is a simple one: buy a bunch of townhouses, evict the tenants, and build a highrise building. The reason for building a highrise is to make money. By building more space than it can personally use an organization gains a surplus which can be profitably rented. This income can then pay for the group's other activities.

Our local YMCA is a classic example. It bought the five townhouses at the corner of RI Ave and 17th St. Then, despite the vigorous protests of its neighbors, the Y evicted the 48 elderly residents and tore the buildings down. In their place we now have a health club for middle aged executives hiding behind an eight story solid brick wall. The high fees the executives pay make money for the Y, but keep out the neighborhood families. Meanwhile, the city has lost homes and real estate taxes.

What the YMCA has done is by no means an isolated example. The Masons are tearing down houses at the corner of 15th & R so they can build a children's hospital. The First Baptist Church, where Jimmy Carter attends services on Sunday, has pushed every single resident off its block at 16th & O. Just to the north,

the American Trucking Association is busy assembling property and displacing residents. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is currently building a monster highrise on Massachusetts Avenue next to Dupont Circle. The forces of good continue to march on and destroy the neighborhood.

The particularly distressing thing about this destruction is its active encouragement by the government. Non-profit organizations and foreign countries pay no real estate, sales or income taxes. Yet they freely are allowed to engage in speculative real estate ventures to make money. When all of an organization's activities are funded by contributions, tax exemption makes some sense. It does not, however, make sense to allow a tax exempt group to compete with the private market in money-making ventures which deprive the city of income. This is especially true when these ventures have a tremendously negative impact on the city and the local neighborhood.

The other form of encouragement for this collective destruction comes from the Municipal Planning Office. MPO has recommended the approval of every non-profit highrise building which has come before the Board of Zoning Adjustment. It recently recommended having a hearing on the American Trucking Assn.'s proposal to change their residentially zoned land to highrise commercial zoning. The planning office also supported a proposal to allow chanceries (the office buildings of embassies) in residential areas without public hearings. We certainly need to accommodate these activities in Washington, but do we need to drive all the residents out of Dupont Circle to do it?

Between 1970 and 1975 the Dupont Circle area lost 2300 people or 13.2% of its population. During this period some new apartment buildings were constructed, but the bulk of the new buildings were for office use. As the non-profit and diplomatic uses take more and more of the land, there is less and less space for people to live. If this trend continues one of the most lively inner city neighborhoods in Washington will have been truly killed by kindness.

May Dupont Circle rest in peace.



# Flotsam & Jetsam

## Protoscience & the Paranormal

A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS CALLING themselves the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal has set out to rob the supermarkets tabloids of their editorial potatoes: the supernatural. The scientists are challenging a passel of peculiar phenomena, from Uri Geller's bent spoons to UFO sightings that turn out to be merely clouds.

It is useful to know that a cloud is a cloud and not a flying saucer and it is at least interesting to know that some of Geller's mysteries have been duplicated by other professional magicians. It is also possible that, as some scientists contend, excessive rapture over the paranormal could provide fertile ground for aspiring dictators and there is no doubt that it breeds many hustlers of less dangerous stripe.

So the scientists can do some good work. But finding fraud and fallacy does not close the case. The paranormal is nothing more than that beyond our present knowledge. The world is not yet, despite the best efforts of science, defined by what we know of it. If we are to be truly skeptical (the committee first called its journal the Zetetic -- or skeptic) then we must be as skeptical of our information as we are of our speculations.

Scientists dislike venturing beyond the proven, even though the proven may distort the final truth by presenting only a fragment of it. Science proved, for example, that DDT killed mosquitoes and so DDT was widely sprayed on crops. Only later did science get around to proving that DDT also had an effect on humans and other animals and that the mosquitoes would gain an immunity to the spray anyway. The fact that science was tardy with this further evidence did not change the situation for the poisoned humans or the mutant mosquitoes. They got sick, died or had their genes altered anyway.

There is plenty of other evidence that unexplained phenomena can be hazardous to our health. Nuclear power used to be considered "clean", food additives made America happy, and doctors used to smoke as much as anyone. While science eventually changed its mind, lay citizens were demonstrating against power plants, organic food nuts were berating hot dogs and parents were warning their children not to smoke long before science confirmed their wisdom.

It is not surprising, therefore, that faith in science seems to be on the wane and the market is turning bullish for mystics. It may not be science's fault that people expected too much of it, but certainly the profession did nothing to encourage public skepticism over the vast amounts of tax dollars spent on its behalf since the trauma of Sputnik. Science went on the dole like every other special interest group and now, two decades later, we seem as far from utopia as ever.

Worse than the unmet expectations of a scientific age, however, has been the mounting evidence that science has been negligent and easily perverted to serving the political needs of the state. The enormous scientific commitment to the development of death machinery, the distorted priorities of cancer research, and the stunning disinterest in preventive medicine suggest that science's future may be more determined by political and economic factors than by a pure search for knowledge. To more than a few, science is no more "free inquiry" than the economy is "free enterprise." Rather it has become a servant of the state just as individual freedom has eroded to protect the state.

It is, in fact, the lay citizens who are becoming the skeptics; it is the scientists who cling to the myth that federally-funded truth will set you free. There are other routes to knowledge.

Even some among the scientists sense this. Marcello Truzzi resigned as editor of the Zetetic, charging that the committee is "tarring everyone with the same brush. When you do that you're cutting yourself off from what may not be just a bunch of kooks, but from what I would call a protoscience."

Truzzi has established a new journal called Zetetic Scholar with consulting editors from the camps of both the believers and the conventional scientists.

Truzzi is on the right track. He may save his profession from another embarrassment as noteworthy as the claim that the world was flat, a widely held scientific thesis of a few years back that was fortunately challenged by some of the kooks of the day.

And even if, in the effort, some of our fondly held speculations are proved faulty, the truth may turn out to be a sufficiently exciting substitute.

Consider for a moment the 13,000 lines and animal drawings on the Nazca Plain of Peru. Erich Von Danikon argues that they represent a prehistoric landing spot for flying saucers. Nonsense, says the committee on the paranormal, citing experiments by the International Explorers Society which proved that the Peruvians had the materials and expertise to fly hot-air balloons, and could have used the designs as an astronomical calendar.

So scratch the prehistoric little green men for now, but set earliest manned flight back many centuries. Not a bad product from some wild speculation.

The committee's experimenting with ESP. An allegedly telepathic woman from Buffalo was tested with playing cards for precognition. Says Dr. Paul Kurtz, of the committee, "It worked fine as long as she was holding the cards, but when we held the cards, she scored zero. Zero."

Two possibilities spring to mind. One, a trick. The other, the importance

of physical contact. The Washington Post, which interviewed Kurtz, left the impression, however, that this incident clearly destroyed the credibility of the card reader.

Not for me, though. I have observed a number of dowzers at work including the famed Henry Gross, my father, and a man I knew in his eighties who not only dowsed but ate poison ivy leaves, perhaps an even more impressive feat. I am convinced there is something to the business, especially in comparison with the alternative, calling a well company to blind-drill a hole at umpteen dollars a foot while you're standing there like a Las Vegas patsy wondering whether 350 feet will work when the first 300 didn't. The rational approach to well drilling bears some striking similarities to the rational treatment for cancer: very expensive and often futile.

But though I believe in dowsing, I have not the slightest idea why it works -- or works for some people and not for others. The critics says that the dowser makes the wand go down at will; they may be correct. The rod may only be an outward and visible sign of an inward, invisible ability. The dowser may know where the water is -- either because of an acute environmental sensitivity or because of some unknown physical reaction, and the muscles of the hands may simply transfer that information to the dowsing rod unbeknownst to either the viewer or the operator. Both the critic and believer may be right in their ways.

That talents such as finding water may exist really shouldn't confound us any more than that talents such as playing music, basketball or painting do. Within the sphere of the normal we are used to talent being a mixture of innate and learned ability. The same may be true for the telepathic. Many animals have sensing skills that may also be available to humans -- but are simply dormant for now.

One of the fascinating aspects of the art of a shaman is that it blends professional magic, paranormal abilities and experience until they become as inseparable as the output of a Cuisinart. Carlos Castaneda's Don Juan was part hustler, part prescient, part just plain smart and part an expert in the environment he traversed. He knew his turf so well that he could turn the normal into magic for his student, but at the same time he made magic seem normal, because unlike the scientific committee to investigate the paranormal, he knew that the unknown was as much a part of life as the known.

It is possible that we could all become more prescient than we are, if through no other means than paying more attention to our environment than we do. Some of us pay much attention to certain environments, almost none to others. We may ignore the signs of a city but be deeply sensitive to the subtleties of the weather, water and other factors when we are, for example, out fishing. Some of this we can articulate, some is nothing more than a feeling. Do we move on because we telepathically feel there are no fish, or because of a subconscious realization that every time we have fished under similar conditions the line has dangled worthlessly?

But beyond the hidden messages of experience, can we learn precognition? J.B. Rine, the ESP man of Duke University, says that in his tests believers tend to do better than non-believers and that a hostile environment lowers the results. If this is true it is an argument for blind faith and it raises the interesting possibility that it is difficult in some instances to find the truth unless you have first accepted it, a rather unscientific way of going about things.

Unscientific, perhaps, but human. Scientists refuse to believe until the facts are in. Others tend to believe until the facts contradict them. Contrary to the assertions of the scientific committee on the paranormal, this is neither dangerous nor a sign of excessive gullibility. The gaps in our knowledge leave huge empty rooms which can at least be rented out to hypotheses until the facts develop.

True, the fakers need to be exposed, if they are charging large sums of money, breaking up families, causing people to get sick, or otherwise offering a lousy alternative to simple agnosticism. But a modest pursuit of astrology, for example, is socially far less dangerous than DNA research and probably as rewarding to some as Presbyterianism. If we allow a clergy to peddle scientifically unsubstantiated forecasts of the afterlife to innocent souls, and indeed provide them with tax exemptions with which to do it, then we should be no less charitable to the fortune teller.

In fact, if we wish to believe in flying saucers, we are probably in far less danger of falling under the spell of a demagogue than if we believed in the finality of science. In the end, we may be right. Even the national air and space museum contains subtle references to the fact that the odds are very much against us being alone. "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters" are not purveying irrationality, but rather presenting popularized speculations of what the possible consequences are if our speculations prove correct.

This is perfectly rational, as any ten year old will be glad to explain. The child drifts from the known to the unknown with an ease that should inspire envy rather than concern. They've never lived in a world without unknowns; you grow into that. Their ignorance makes them more prepared to deal with a sudden expansion of their inner and outer universe than are their parents. They know, thanks to Project UFO, that some flying saucers are fake, but they also reason -- and it is most reasonable -- that something else must be out there.

If this is the case, then it is worth thinking about before the green or gray folk arrive on our doorstep. If nothing else, it encourages anthropomorphic humility, which seems in rather short supply these days. Besides, it is important to think even when you don't know. Knowledge comes from hunches and hypotheses as well as the slow unravelling of facts. It is not anti-scientific to speculate about the unknown; it is simply a recognition of the limits of science and the proper application of other human abilities such as philosophy, imagination and intuition. If these cannot co-exist with science then we will face a future of drilling 350' into dry holes because that is the only 'rational' way to do it.

-- SAM SMITH

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